

Malaysia

Tourism

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF TOURISM MALAYSIA

ISSN 0128-1348

Hosting The World

Time Tunnel In Taiping

*F1 Grand Prix Crown
In Sepang*

Rombong Basket Weaving

Malaysia
Truly Asia

Sept - Oct 2000

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Malaysian Craft

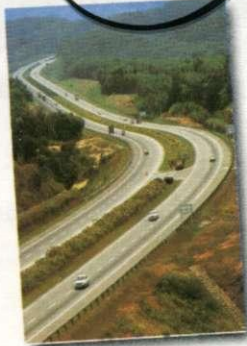
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Tourism Malaysia Diary 2000

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1 - 14 Nov | Sales Mission To India and Bangladesh |
| 2 - 5 Nov | Taipei International Travel Fair - Taipei, Taiwan |
| 3 - 5 Nov | Malaysia Food & Cultural Festival - Taipei, Taiwan |
| 13 - 16 Nov | World Travel Mart - London, United Kingdom |
| 14 - 16 Nov | Belgian Consumer Travel Fair - Brussels, Belgium |
| 22 - 26 Nov | T & C Leipzig - Leipzig, German |

EDITORIAL



The theme of our 43rd National Day celebration this year, '*Keranamu Malaysia*', which literally means, 'Because of you, Malaysia', speaks volumes of where we come from and where we are heading. In moments like these, I cannot help but reflect on the achievements that the travel trade has made and the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Together, we have made great strides in developing our tourism industry to where it is today. Yes, because of you, Malaysia, we gave our very best and were successful in hosting major world class events such as the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September 1998, the F1 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix last October, the World Cup Golf and Le Tour de Langkawi early this year.

While we have achieved much over the years, especially in putting Malaysia on the world tourism map, I must say that we are still not there yet. Tourism, being a service-oriented industry, is a very demanding one. Therefore, there is no such thing as resting on our laurels because there are a lot more things that need to be done and pertinent issues to be addressed.

I, therefore, urge the private sector to continue to play a key role in developing the tourism industry by continuously coming up with new and innovative products. To ensure that we are up to the mark, especially in terms of our service, we must constantly equip ourselves with new knowledge and the latest trends in the market.

Let us remain focused in what we do, which is to promote Malaysia as a premier tourist destination. As a first step, we need to plan our activities well so that we will not steer away from our objectives and goals.

Simply said, we need to think, dream and breathe tourism. Once we are able to achieve that, we will emerge as "winners" in the travel industry, truly befitting the '*Malaysia Boleh*' spirit.

Abdullah Jonid
Director-General
Tourism Malaysia

Malaysia
Truly Asia

From ancient times, visitors from civilisations near and far have stepped ashore in this hospitable land of Malaysia, leaving behind legacies rich in culture and heritage. Today, so much of exotic Asia can be found in just one destination. Only in Malaysia can you experience the unique amalgam of Asia's great cultures and civilisations - Malay, Chinese, Indian, the different ethnic groups of Sabah and Sarawak, and even the influence of the British, Dutch, Portuguese and Thai. Bursting with colour, pulsating with life, enticing Malaysia welcomes you to savour an incomparable Asian feast for the senses - more sights, sounds, smell, tastes and feel. Discover Asia in Malaysia now.

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Carnival & Fireworks at Mega Sale Launch



The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi (in traditional Malay attire) and the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Dato' Kadir (in white shirt)



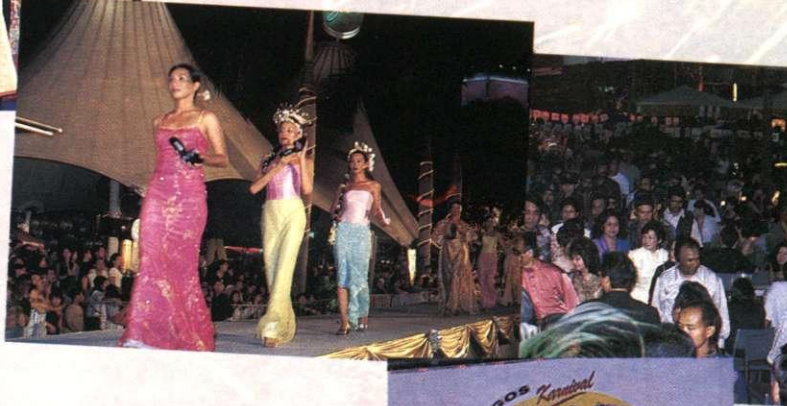
Bintang Walk in Kuala Lumpur was charged with excitement as foreign tourists, media and special guests joined Malaysians for the night launch of Malaysia's Mega Sale Carnival on 5 August 2000. Speaking at the launch, YB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia said:

"We have a wide range of products that are Malaysian-made. We guarantee that these products are of high quality, marketed in countries all over the world."

A night of entertainment was laid out starting with the country's longest catwalk show where 100 models displayed the dazzling fashion of 23 Malaysian designers. There were live performances by some of Malaysia's top singing artistes, cultural shows and a spectacular 15-minute fireworks display.

The Deputy Prime Minister and his wife, accompanied by YB Dato' Abdul Kadir Hj Sheikh Fadzir, the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts & Tourism and Abdullah Jonid, Tourism Malaysia Director General later toured several shopping complexes near Bintang Walk.

Simultaneously, at Jalan Wong Ah Fook, Johor Bahru's main shopping street, the Honourable Chief Minister of Johor, YB Dato' Abdul Ghani Othman launched the Mega Sale at state level. In a video link-up with the Deputy Prime Minister, YB Dato' Abdul Ghani said Johor expected 1 million visitors to the state this year.



A convoy of Volkswagen Beetles and cultural performances presented by the Malay, Chinese, Indian, Sikh and Javanese communities added much colour and excitement. Capping the launch was a fireworks display amidst the cheers of the more than 10,000 spectators. YB Dato' Abdul Ghani later visited the packed City Square shopping centre which joined in the festivity with live entertainment for the shoppers.



The Honourable Chief Minister of Johor, YB Dato' Abdul Ghani (left) and YB Dato' Chua Soi Lek, Johor State Executive Councillor for Tourism & Environment

The next Mega Sale is in December 2000 - just in time for Christmas, Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Chinese New Year. Don't miss it!



Minister at KOTFA



YB Dato' Abdul Kadir Hj Sheikh Fadzir, the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism was on hand to welcome the delegation of APEC Tourism Ministers to the Malaysia booth at the Korea World Travel Mart (KOTFA) in early July 2000. The live batik painting demonstration and Malaysian cultural dances at



(from left) Korean Minister of Culture and Tourism Park Ji-won, YB Dato' Abdul Kadir Hj Sheikh Fadzir, Director of Tourism Malaysia Seoul Syed Yahya Syed Othman, Korea World Travel Fair chairman Shin Jung-mok

the booth attracted a lot of visitor interest. Over 41,000 Korean visitors arrived in Malaysia in 1999, an increase of 91.6%. Tourism Malaysia Seoul office has been opened since December.

Biggest delegation for Mid-East mart

Malaysia's delegation to the Arabian Travel Mart 2000 in Dubai, UAE in early May 2000

was the largest with 38 tourism organisations participating, including leading Malaysian hotels and travel agents. The State tourism authorities from Penang, Johor and Langkawi also participated to promote the special attractions of their respective state.

Over 250 guests from the UAE trade and authorities attended the Malaysia Trade Nite and to boost consumer

awareness of Malaysia, a two-week food and cultural promotion was held at Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

Malaysia is keen to tap the West Asian market, and tourist arrivals to Malaysia have increased in recent months. In April 2000, YB Dato' Abdul Kadir Hj Sheikh Fadzir, the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism led a successful tourism mission to the Middle East.



The Crown Prince of Dubai and Minister of Information & Culture, Sheikh Abdullah Zayed Al-Nokyan (3rd from left) posing with YB Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen (Penang State Executive Councillor for Tourism, Culture, Arts & Women's Development) and YB Dato' Chua Soi Lek, (Johor State Executive Councillor for Tourism & Environment) on his right, and Mahani Mydin of Pinang Cultural Centre on his left.



Incentives from India

Malaysia is fast becoming a popular incentive destination for Indian companies. In mid-July 2000, Bombay-based computer company TecPacific sent 220 top distributors on a 4-day / 3-night conference / incentive to Kuala Lumpur / Genting Highlands. In mid-August, 800 top performers from men's fashion company Raymond's Ltd. arrived in two groups back-to-back. Tourism Malaysia sponsored batik sarongs for the participants for the theme night. The ground handler was Tourland Travels.



Malaysia's float wins in Houston & Ottawa

The rainbow coloured Malaysian float with the theme '*Malaysia - Truly Asia*' was a crowd favourite at the Asian Heritage Parade in Houston, Texas, USA on 13 May 2000. Featuring a bevy of ladies in various ethnic costumes to depict the amalgam of Asian cultures and civilisations found in Malaysia, Tourism Malaysia's won the first prize.

Following its success in Houston, Tourism Malaysia participated in the Clarica Flotilla on Rideau Canal in Ottawa. With the theme 'Christmas in Malaysia' and sponsored by Christmas Exchange, Malaysia's float received the vote for best float among the signature floats.



Captivating the North Americans

Malaysia went on show in Toronto, Ottawa, New York and Epcot in May and June 2000, fascinating both trade and consumers with its rich and colourful heritage. In Toronto, Tourism Malaysia held a trade reception and seminar with cultural show in Mississauga and the University of Toronto, and cultural presentations at two downtown malls.

In conjunction with the Tulip Festival in Ottawa, Tourism Malaysia staged cultural presentations at various locations. At the International Pavilion in Major's Hill Park, 'Malaysia Day' was held on 22 May with demonstrations of traditional games and the sale of Malaysian food and cakes.

New Yorkers had a chance to see some of Malaysia's attractions at the outdoor cultural shows held in South Street Seaport and Washington Square. As part of the Millennium Celebrations at DisneyWorld in the EPCOT Centre, Orlando, Florida, the Malaysian cultural troupe performed daily at the Millennium Village Theatre for two weeks.

Houston declares 'Malaysia Week'

The city of Houston, Texas, USA declared 1 - 13 May 2000 as Malaysia Week, during which Tourism Malaysia held various activities to showcase the country's food and culture. At Katy Mills Mall was an exhibition of 36 photographs of Malaysian scenes shot by 22 hobbyist photographers who visited Malaysia under the 'Mentor Series Tour of American Photography Magazine'. A cooking class on Malaysian food was held at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel followed by a Malaysian buffet dinner for the trade and media.

The Houston Public Library displayed a collection of 110 books on Malaysia, which was later presented to the library. Rounding up the week was a two-day cultural performance entitled '*Malaysia - Truly Asia*' at the San Jacinto Auditorium.

Tourism Malaysia in AASCVB

Representatives of member national tourism organisations of the Asian Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus (AASCVB) gather for a photo call after the association's 17th annual conference in Shanghai, China in late July 2000.

Co-organiser of the 8th IT&CMA in Kuala Lumpur from 27-29 Sep 2000, Tourism Malaysia will be participating at IT&ME 2000 (McCormick Place, Chicago, USA) from 10 -12 Oct 2000.



New Director in HK

Zakaria Mohd. Nani is the new Director of Tourism Malaysia, Hong Kong office with effect 3 Aug 2000. With almost 16 years of valuable experience, Zakaria was most recently attached to Tourism Malaysia Kota Kinabalu in Sabah State. He has also worked in the Finance & Administration and International Marketing divisions in Tourism Malaysia.



Proud Past - Promising Future Celebrating PATA's 50th Anniversary

in Malaysia

As PATA celebrates its golden anniversary in Kuala Lumpur in April 2001, host country Malaysia takes pride in presenting its own promising future as a premier tourist and MICE destination.

Delegates who have not been able to visit Malaysia since it hosted the 36th PATA Annual Conference in Kuala Lumpur in 1986 will be amazed at all the new developments in the city and around the country. Kuala Lumpur has grown even more dynamic, its skyline enhanced by the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest structures, new hotels and many other new features. Domestic flights, rail and modern highways traverse the country, making internal travel highly convenient and fast. Satellite link-up enables instantaneous communication worldwide.

PATA 2001 and the post-conference tours will be an excellent opportunity for delegates to view the new visage of Kuala Lumpur, and indeed the whole country, with a view to developing new business. Discounted accommodation packages are available and Malaysia Airlines is offering all delegates 50% discount off normal economy fare or the lowest promotional fare, with waiver of restrictions.

See you at the 50th PATA Annual Conference at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur from 8 -12 April 2001!



REGISTRATION

Early Bird Deadline : 1 Dec, 2000

Fax / E-mail to :

"2001 PATA Annual Conference,"

1 Montgomery Street, Telesis Tower, Suite 1000,
San Francisco, CA 94104-4539, USA

Tel : (1-415)-986-4646

Fax : (1-415)-834-0420

E-mail : conference@pata.org

Web site : <http://www.pata.org>

Asia in Malaysia

at IT&ME 2000

Visitors to Malaysia Booth at IT&ME 2000 in Chicago, USA, from 10-12 Oct 2000 had a preview of the exotic experience of Asia in just one single destination - Malaysia.

Situated at the crossroads of the ancient trading routes between China and Europe, India and the Middle East, Malaysia has inherited a legacy enriched by the many ethnic groups and cultures that have landed on her shores over several centuries. Today, the fascinating country of Malaysia is home to Malays, Chinese, Indians, the different ethnic groups of Sabah and Sarawak, other Asian groups and a Eurasian community of British, Dutch and Portuguese descent. Each ethnic group continues to practise its own culture and display its heritage in the form of lifestyle, dance, music, cuisine, attire and festivals.

This tropical paradise also offers sun-drenched beaches, ancient rainforests, adventure holidays, a wide choice of cuisines, shopping, excellent river and sea fishing, diving, golfing and international sports. MICE facilities rank among the best in the world.



Natural Wonders Abound

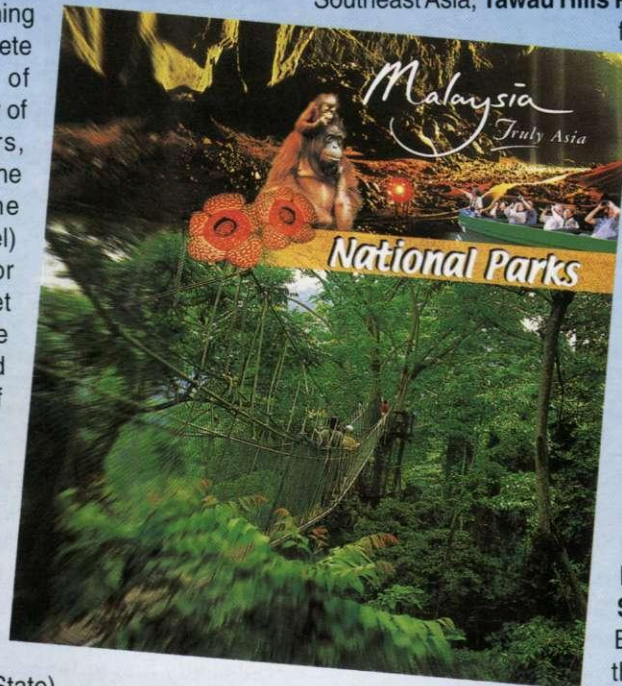
Take a holiday with a refreshing difference. Away from the concrete jungle, in the national parks of Malaysia can be found a diversity of breathtaking natural wonders, including the oldest rainforests, the largest flower (Rafflesia), the smallest squirrel (pygmy squirrel) and the tallest tree (Tualang or Koompassia excelsa) on Planet Earth. Fascinating marine treasures abound in the protected marine parks surrounding some of the islands.

There are three national parks in the peninsula - **Taman Negara**, Malaysia's largest park (Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu States) and the site of Peninsular Malaysia's highest mountain, Gunung Tahan (2,187 m); **Kenong Rimba Park** (Pahang State), home to the Batek indigenous tribe and a scenic valley with magnificent limestone caves, beneath which meanders the Kenong River; and the **Endau Rompin National Park**, (Johor and Pahang States), where the rocks and hills are estimated at 248 million years old.

Sabah State has three marine parks - the **Tunku Abdul Rahman Park** comprising a group of five islands near Kota Kinabalu; the **Pulau Tiga Park** comprising three islands situated in Kimanis Bay; and **Turtle Islands Park**, north of Sandakan in the Sulu Sea, a nesting ground for the green turtles.

The other parks are **Kinabalu Park**, famous for its abundant and diverse plant life, including over 1,200 species of wild orchids, and Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in

Southeast Asia; **Tawau Hills Park**; and the rugged, densely forested **Crocker Range National Park**, which is not open to public visits yet.



In Sarawak, famous for their cavernous limestone caves are the **Gunung Mulu National Park** and **Niah National Park**, which is also Borneo's most important archeological site with the discovery of human remains dating back almost 40,000 years.

National Parks situated by the beach are **Bako National Park** near Kuching; **Similajau National Park** near Bintulu; and near Sematan, the **Tanjung Datu National Park** and the **Gunung Gading**

National Park which has a Rafflesia site.

Kubah National Park, 20km from Kuching, is a cool forest while the **Lambir Hills National Park** near Miri has mighty waterfalls. **Batang Ai National Park** offers an experience in an Iban longhouse by the Batang Ai Lake, and in **Loagan Bunut National Park** in the Miri Division lies the largest natural lake in Sarawak.

For more information on these 19 national parks, their wondrous natural attractions, the flora and fauna, the facilities on site, accommodation, tips on planning an itinerary and information on how to get there, collect your free copy of the National Parks brochure from your nearest Tourism Malaysia office.

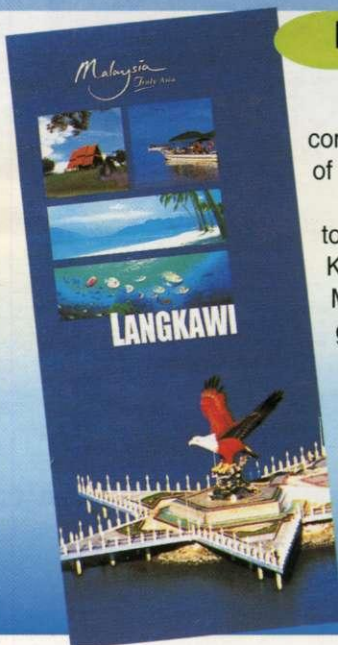
Langkawi's Attractions

The popular destination of Langkawi, off the northwestern coast of Peninsular Malaysia, actually comprises 99 tropical islands. The main island, popularly known as Pulau Langkawi, offers a host of attractions for both tourists and MICE participants.

Tourism Malaysia's updated brochure on **Langkawi** presents the array of historical and newer tourist attractions that should not be missed. Among the latter are Dataran Lang (Eagle's Square), Kampung (Village) Buku Malaysia, part of the International Book Villages and Book Towns Movement, and Galeria Perdana, which houses an impressive collection of over 2,500 state gifts and awards presented to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Laman Padi Langkawi showcases aspects of the rice-growing industry while the beautiful gardens at the scenic Taman Lagenda provides a picturesque backdrop for Malaysian handicraft and cultural objects. Craftwork demonstrations can be seen at Craft Complex Langkawi, Langkawi Crystal and Air Hangat Village. Pulau Payar Marine Park and Underwater World Langkawi provide excellent opportunities to see tropical waterworld beauty.

The brochure also provides information on getting to Langkawi, accommodation and shopping in this duty-free haven. Contact your nearest Tourism Malaysia office for your free copy of the new Langkawi brochure.



GOOD CONNECTIONS

Malaysia has excellent air, road and rail networks for internal travelling. From all the main entry points in Peninsular Malaysia, there are direct flights, highway accessibility and train connections to key cities and towns. Flight services from Kota Kinabalu and Kuching link these two cities to the peninsula and to smaller towns within the states of Sabah and Sarawak

Travelling in Malaysia is convenient, as the country enjoys a modern transportation infrastructure, and visitors have a choice of air, road or rail transport. From the main entry points of Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Alor Setar, Johor Bahru and Kota Bharu, there are Malaysia Airlines flights to the key cities and state capitals of the country. Kuala Lumpur is also the base for commercial or chartered flights operated by smaller airlines.

Inbound visitors who land in Kota Kinabalu in Sabah State and Kuching in Sarawak can also conveniently fly to destinations in Peninsular Malaysia, or connect on to Malaysia Airlines flights to smaller towns within these two states.

Peninsular Malaysia is also well-traversed by highways and tarred Federal trunk roads making travelling by car or coach a fast and comfortable experience.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Domestic air travel is well developed in Malaysia and there is an airport in all the state capitals and the Federal Territory of Labuan. In Kuala Lumpur, domestic flights are available from both the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang and the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang (Subang Airport). While Malaysia Airlines has the widest domestic network, four other smaller airlines, AirAsia, Transmile, Pelangi and Berjaya, provide services mainly to popular tourist destinations not served by the national carrier.

Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines offers flights from both the KLIA and

Subang Airport to all state capitals and major towns in the country. It flies to Alor Setar, Ipoh, Johor Bahru, Langkawi and Penang on the West Coast; Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu and Kuantan on the East Coast and the Federal Territory of Labuan. For the state of Sabah, there are direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu, Sibul, Sandakan and Tawau, the departure point for the famous diving spots off Sipadan and Mabul islands. For Sarawak state, Malaysia Airlines flies to Kuching and Miri from Kuala Lumpur.

From Kota Kinabalu, there are flights to Lahad Datu to access the eco-tourism destination of Danum Valley Conservation Area, to Sandakan for the Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary and to Semporna, a marine tourism centre. To reach the ancient Mulu Caves (Mulu National Park), there is a flight from Miri to Mulu.

(Enquiries/Reservations : Tel (603)-746-3000
or your nearest Malaysia Airlines offices.)

AirAsia

A designated national airline of Malaysia, AirAsia flies two Boeing 737-300 aircrafts on scheduled flights from



Subang Airport to Kota Kinabalu twice daily, to Kuching every day with an additional flight on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and twice weekly to Labuan. There are six flights a week to Langkawi.

The airline has also introduced a business class section with the Perdana Lounge at Terminal 3, Subang Airport for business class passengers. AirAsia has ticket counters at all the airports it flies from.

[Enquiries / ticketing :
Tel. (603)-745-7777 Fax. (603)-745-5555]



Transmile

The airline currently flies B737-200 to Kuching daily and to Kota Kinabalu daily except Tuesday and Thursday with lower fares for senior citizens on these flights. Transmile has ticket counters at all the airports it operates from. [Enquiries / ticketing : Tel. (603)-745-5122 Fax. (603)-745-2058].

Pelangi Airways

Operating Fokker aircraft from the Subang Airport, Pelangi flies to Ipoh thrice a week, to Kuala Terengganu twice a week and daily to Johor Bahru.

Pelangi also has two daily flights to Kerteh on the East Coast, the base for oil exploration activities off the Terengganu State coastline, and is the only airline flying there. Pelangi ticket counters are found at all the airports

the airline operates from. [Enquiries / ticketing: Tel. (603)-755-3770 Fax. (603)-755-3355]

Berjaya Air

The only airline offering daily scheduled flights from Kuala Lumpur

(Subang Airport) to the popular resort island of Tioman (in the South China Sea off coast of Pahang State), Berjaya Air operates the 48-seater *DeHavilland Dash 7* aircraft. Flight time to the island is less than 60 minutes. Since Feb 2000, it has been operating five weekly scheduled flights to Pangkor Island (Perak State) in conjunction with "Visit Perak Year 2000". Berjaya Air has a ticket counter at Subang Airport. [Enquiries / reservations : Tel. (603)-746-822 Fax (603)-746-5637 E-mail: berjayaa@tm.net.my]



HIGHWAY TRAVEL

North South Expressway

The 847 km -North South Expressway (NSE), a toll highway, runs the entire length of Peninsular Malaysia, starting at Bukit Kayu Hitam (Kedah State) at the Malaysia-Thai border in the north and ending in Johor Bahru (Johor State), across the causeway from Singapore in the south. Fully operational in 1994, the NSE traverses a range of terrain, ranging from level land between padi fields in the northern state of Kedah to rolling and mountainous terrain in the central part of the country, affording a vista of the country not available from the air.

Linking the cities and major towns on the West Coast of the peninsula, the NSE is a dual four-lane divided highway and in urban areas, there are six lanes, with a design speed of 120 km/h. Driving at a speed of 110 km/h, it takes only about three hours from Kuala Lumpur to Penang, and about three and a half hours to Johor Bahru.

Facilities include overhead bridge restaurants, rest and service areas with food stalls and public toilets located every 60 to 100 km along the expressway, and laybys every 25 to 50 km. Petrol stations can be found beside the overhead bridge restaurants and at all rest and service areas. At the vista points located at Padas / Linggi (Negri Sembilan State) and Ipoh, the capital of Perak State, there are parking lots, shelters and picnic spots.

PLUSRonda, a 24-hour free service to assist motorists, handles accidents and general traffic management on the NSE, and in the event of a major breakdown, provides towing of selected vehicles to the nearest toll plaza. Emergency telephones (ET) are placed every 2 km on either side of the NSE, and calls are directed to the nearest Region Communication Centre of the expressway. The Traffic Monitoring Centre, operating 24 hours a day, handles all enquiries on the PLUSLINE [Tel. (03)-2692-0000].

East-West Highway and coastal roads

For travellers in the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia, the 79.2 km East West Highway provides a scenic link between the highly urbanised West Coast and the slower-paced East Coast. Exiting the NSE at Kuala Kangsar, a road links to Grik in northern Perak State from where the East West Highway crosses the mountainous region of the central Main Range to enter Kelantan State at Jeli. Halfway, 35 km from Grik, lies the idyllic island resort of Pulau (Island) Banding within Temenggor Lake, the largest man-made lake in Perak State. There are three vista points on the highway located at 9.3 km, 50 km and 67 km from Grik, and a surau can be found at each spot. The last is also the highest point, with parking bays, a picnic spot and toilets.

From Kuala Lumpur, travellers can take the Karak Highway, a toll highway that crosses the Main Range to enter Pahang State, and continue on a Federal road to Kuantan. At Temerloh, in central Pahang, a road runs north to link up with Kelantan at the town of Gua Musang. A Federal road running the length of the East Coast links the towns of Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan and Johor Bahru.

The coastal areas of the West Coast states are also well connected by Federal roads, enabling easy access to tourist

sites. The Penang Bridge, a dominant landmark that is also the site for the annual Penang Bridge Run, provides the road link between the island of Penang and the mainland.

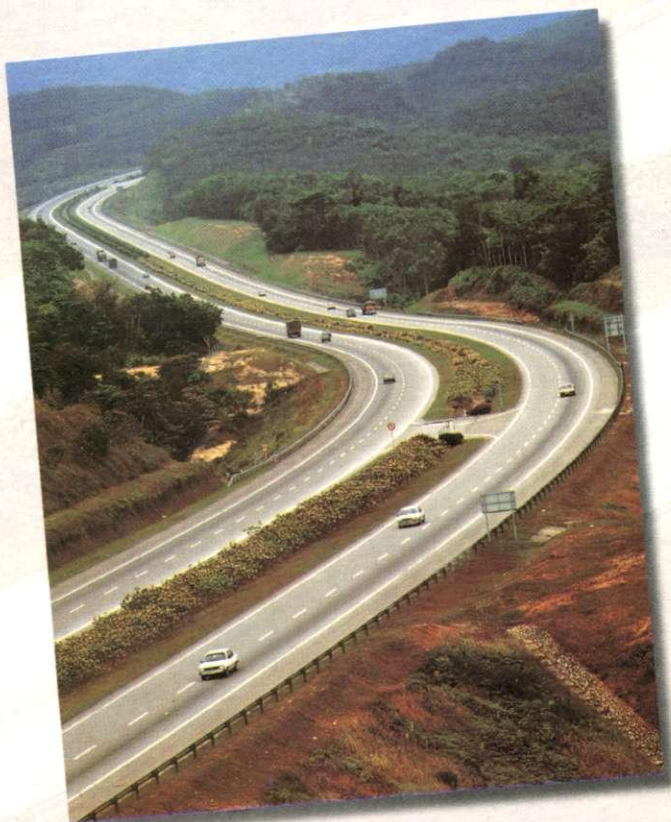
Klang Valley, Sabah and Sarawak

In the Klang Valley, where Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Port Klang are located, a number of urban toll highways are in operation or under construction to facilitate smooth and fast travel in this densely populated part of the country. The KLIA, Sepang International Circuit and other main tourist attractions are easily accessible by highways.

A good Federal trunk road network links Kota Kinabalu to all major towns in Sabah State such as Kudat, Lahad Datu, Sandakan and Tawau. Roads crossing the Crocker Range have made the interior accessible from the coastal areas and enabled visitors to enjoy the beauty of the rugged mountains. Kinabalu Park, where Southeast Asia's highest mountain Mt. Kinabalu is situated, and Poring Hot Springs, can be reached by road.

In Sarawak State, a Federal trunk road links Kuching to Sematan, Sibul, Bintulu, Miri and other towns near the capital and along the coastal areas. Some of the national parks in the state are accessible by road from Kuching, such as Kubah National Park, 20 km away, Gunung Gading National Park, two hours drive away and Tanjung Datu National Park (via Lundu and Sematan). The journey from Kuching to Batang Ai Dam in the Batang Ai National Park takes about six hours.

Loagan Bunut National Park and Lambir Hills National Park can be reached by road from Miri while Niah National Park is accessible from Miri or Bintulu. River transport is becoming less popular in this state that is traversed by many



rivers although it should prove a fascinating way for visitors to see the interior, which is now well served by rural air services.

KTM RAILWAY SERVICES

Rail travel offers an excellent and more leisurely way to see the heartland of Peninsular Malaysia. The KTM Intercity Passenger Services provide long distance and regional intercity train services traversing all the states in the peninsula except Malacca and Terengganu. Passengers bound for



Penang island disembark at Butterworth on the mainland.

For travel on the West Coast, the train services link Butterworth to Kuala Lumpur and vice versa, and Kuala Lumpur to Singapore and vice versa. The day express services, the Ekspres Raakyat and the Ekspres Sinaran, have limited stops in between. The night service, Senandung Malam offers first and second class air-conditioned travel with berths, and economy class. The Ekspres Langkawi runs between Padang Besar (on the Thai-Malaysia border) and Kuala Lumpur, with a stop in Arau (in Perlis State) for onward travel to Langkawi island.

The Ekspres Wau offers night travel from Tumpat (in Kelantan State) to Kuala Lumpur and vice versa while the Ekspres Timuran runs from Tumpat to Singapore and vice versa.

Passengers bound for the KLIA can catch the electrified KTM Komuter Service to Nilai Station, and board a feeder bus to the airport Main Bus Terminal. From Kuala Lumpur, the Komuter trains reach as far as Seremban in the south, Rawang to the north and Port Klang in the west, stopping at main suburban centres and towns along the way.

Discounts are given for family/ group travel of minimum four persons and groups of 10. Overseas tourists (except Singaporeans) can buy a tourist rail pass for unlimited travel on intercity services. The 30 days pass cost USD 120 (adult) and USD 60 (child) while the 10 days pass cost USD 55 (adult) and USD 28 (child).

For further information contact Tel. (603)-2273-8000 or E-mail: passenger@ktmb.com.my or visit <http://www.ktmb.com.my> ■

Mangrove Adventure



The mangrove swamp near Pulau Indah, off Port Klang (Selangor State) is a fascinating eco-system where avian, fish and crustaceans can be found among the mangrove trees and the roots that grow above ground.

In the Mangrove Adventure Tour produced by Wetland Tours (based in Klang), the guide introduces the mangrove eco-system as the *sampan* (local open fishing boat) glides into Sungai (River) Chondong. First stop is at 'Eagle Spot' to view eagles and Brahminy kites. Occasionally the purple Heron, Stork or other avian may be seen.

On entering the Sungai Nibong tributary, visitors can see and touch the leaves and the soft breathing roots of the mangrove tree, as well as various flowers and fruits that grow

in the mangrove swamp. It is easy to spot mud crabs among the mangrove stilted roots, and catch sight of the water monitor lizard, kingfishers, mudskippers, silver leaf monkeys and bucket snails as they try to stay above the waterline or the "twister" snails as they feed on the nutrients of the mudflats.

Visitors can also see traditional fishing methods such as cast netting and Bubu fish traps in which catfish, crabs or prawns are caught. Included in the tour is a visit to the sea gypsies colony by the river to learn about their culture.

The Mangrove Adventure Tour, available daily, starts at Pulau Indah jetty normally at 3.00 pm (subject to tide conditions) and takes about 2 1/2 - 3 hours. Pick-up from Kuala Lumpur can be arranged. The package includes boat ride, nature

guide, a bottle of mineral water and insurance coverage.



Enquiries : Wetland Tours Sdn Bhd
Tel. (603)- 3324-8433 / 3324-3533
Fax. (603) - 3323-8455
E-mail - Wetldtrs@tm.net.my

Penang's Bayview Refurbished

Penang's Bayview Beach Resort, part of the Bayview International Hotels and Resorts group, has spent more than USD 1 million on refurbishment, which includes new carpeting in the rooms, corridors and the Grand Ballroom, new mattresses, balcony furniture and guest amenities. Three more television channels (CNBC, Discovery and Starworld) have been added, making a total of nine complimentary channels.

A new Internet / Business Centre is located in the hotel's atrium lobby. A dedicated guest e-mail address and in-room phone jacks enable guests to plug into the Internet. On the beachfront, hammocks are strung between the casuarina trees, complemented by new deck chairs and beach cabanas, and the new Senja Bar.

Other new facilities are a tailor's shop and a hair salon, and many of the resort's operating machinery has been changed to environmentally friendly and ozone free systems.



Enquiries : Hotel - Tel. (604)-881-2133
Fax. (604)-881-2140
Kuala Lumpur Sales Office -
Tel. (603)-263-4899
Fax. (603)-264-0633

Hosting The World

Malaysia has world-class MICE facilities and a successful track record of hosting prestigious international conventions, exhibitions and sports events. For MICE planners, Malaysia offers a choice of venues in city, island or mountain locations. This feature looks at five major MICE venues and a new one under construction.

Malaysia is a choice Asia Pacific destination for international MICE events. It has world-class purpose-built MICE venues, numerous hotels with MICE facilities throughout the country, frequent and convenient international flight accessibility, modern infrastructure, well-developed internal transportation system, trained English-speaking tourism professionals and support staff, and a sophisticated telecommunication system.

Fully capable of hosting large-scale international conferences, exhibitions and other events, Malaysia has successfully won the bids to host several major international

conventions in the next few years, including the 89th World Dental Congress and the 50th PATA Conference in 2001, and both the World Orchid Conference and the 53rd FIABC World Congress in 2002. Currently Malaysia is bidding to host the Asian Games in 2006 and the Federation of International Gynaecological and Obstetrical (FIGO) World Congress also in 2006.

Of the six premier purpose-built MICE venues in the country, four are located in the Kuala Lumpur-Petaling Jaya conurbation and one each in Langkawi Island and Genting Highlands.

City centre convenience at PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC)

The PWTC has 35,000 sq.m. of exhibition space, one plenary hall, two multipurpose halls, 17 meeting rooms, a press conference room and VIP suites. There are three exhibition halls, Tun Razak Halls 1,3 and 4, a large outdoor space to handle tented exhibitions and a foyer area, the Legar Putra.

On the advantages of the PWTC, Chief Executive Officer, N.S. Pichoo says: "The PWTC has superb facilities and services including up-to-date telecommunication and audio-visual facilities and a fibre optic backbone, which allows for simultaneous Internet access for up to 3,000 users. There is also continuous upgrading of the halls and facilities."

Pichoo stresses on accessibility and experience. "Unlike our competitors, the PWTC, by virtue of its central location within the heart of Kuala Lumpur city, is easily accessible to the public via major roads and public transportation – buses, taxis, LRT trains, and commuter trains. This accessibility ensures good turnout for all events held at the PWTC," he says. The PWTC is about 45 minutes drive from KL International Airport.

"We've been in the MICE business as the premier venue provider since 1985. The operation and management teams are experienced and skilful. We provide quality service of international standard with Malaysian hospitality," adds Pichoo.

Tun Razak Hall 1 (4,000 sq.m) is pillarless, Tun Razak Hall 3 (4,600 sq.m.) is designed to accommodate standard size exhibition



booths and Tun Razak Hall 4 (2,800 sq.m.) with its high ceiling allows for specially designed booths. Automobile ramps and spacious cargo elevators facilitate movement of exhibits. The exhibition areas are furnished with important utilities, including telecommunication connections, water supply, three-phase points and Internet access.

The two main halls, Tun Dr. Ismail and Tun Hussein Onn, can accommodate conferences, banquets and other corporate events for up to 1,000 persons. Each hall can be partitioned into two rooms. Conference facilities include audio-visual equipment, a simultaneous interpretation system for up to 6 languages and Internet access. Dewan Merdeka, the plenary hall, can accommodate conferences for up to 3,600 participants. Conference facilities in this hall include

state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, a simultaneous interpretation by Jose Carreras, Bolshoi Ballet, Kenny G, Bread, Vanessa Mae, Hootie & the Blowfish, Al Jarreau and Kenny G.

With a resident executive chef, the PWTC also markets itself as a banquet venue offering a range of cuisines. Amenities in the complex include food and beverage outlets (Riverside Café, Riverside Restaurant, a lounge), a bank, post office, travel agency, tourist information centre, florist and photoshop. There are 750 parking bays within the centre, 1,500 in the mall and 1,200 in the

Hentian Putra across the road. Next to the PWTC are the Pan Pacific and the Legend, both 5-star properties which together with other hotels nearby offer in excess of 5,000 rooms.

Address: 41 Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur
Enquiries: Tel. (603)-4043-3999 Fax. (603)-4043-3777
Toll Free. 1-800-880-448
E-mail: pwtc@pwtc.com.my
Website: www.pwtc.com.my/pwtc

Lakeside ambience at MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE (MIECC)

Located in The Mines Resort City, about 20 minutes drive from Kuala Lumpur and 35 minutes drive from the KL International Airport (KLIA), the MIECC was completed in July 1997. Offering 38,000 sq.m. of net usable space with a column-free area of 8,766 sq.m. of exhibition space, the MIECC can accommodate up to 10,000 persons theatre-style seating and 7,500 persons banquet seating. More than 4,000 parking bays are available.

"MIECC is the largest and strongest exhibition centre in Malaysia. In addition to the vast floor area which can take a floor loading capacity of 3 tonnes per sq.m., MIECC has 12 units of 40-footer loading bays, four units of 7-tonne cargo elevators and direct access automobile ramps," says Eugene Yau, MIECC general manager.

The large exhibition hall can be divided into three separate halls to cater for private banquets for up to 8000 persons. On the mezzanine floor are 1,552 sq.m. of meeting and seminar space comprising three conference rooms, 12 meeting rooms and a VIP room. Facilities include state-of-the-art telecommunications and teleconferencing, theatrical AV system, video conferencing system, mobile stages and simultaneous interpretation system. Service pits in the exhibition hall floors contain fibre optics, high power utilities, data lines, ISDN lines, water supply lines and waste outlets.

On future positioning of MIECC, Yau says, "We are currently upgrading our service standards and considering renovating the exhibition hall into a huge ballroom."

The Mines Resort City integrates resort, business,



conference, residential and entertainment facilities around a lake in a 1,000-acre landscaped site that was formerly the world's largest open cast tin mine. It comprises the MIECC which is linked to The Mines Shopping Fair, The Mines Beach Resort & Spa with a city beach, the award-winning Palace of the Golden Horses, The Mines Wonderland Theme Park, The Mines Resort & Golf Club and The Mines Waterfront Business Park. Accessibility is convenient via the North South Expressway, Shah Alam Expressway, Sungai Besi Highway and Federa Route 1.

Among the events booked into MIECC are IT&CMA 2000 in late September, Heli Asia 2000 and Asean Communication & Multimedia 2000 in October. Next year, MIECC will host the 6th Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Exhibition & Convention 2001.

Address : The Mines Resort City,
43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor
Enquiries : Tel. (603)-8945-2055
Fax. (603)- 8945-2155
E-mail: MIECC@mines.com.my
Website: www.mines.com.my



Sea, sand and sun at MAHSURI INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE (MIEC)

Built in 1991, the MIEC is the largest air-conditioned, covered convention centre in Langkawi catering for banquets, meetings, conventions and exhibitions. It consists of a 71,400 sq.m. exhibition hall, the 6,786 sq.m. Langkapuri Hall which can be split into two separate function halls, a pre-function room, six suites, six lounges, a business centre and a press centre.

"The MIEC is strategically located 0.5 km from the airport and less than five minutes by car," points out Gordon Koh, general manager of Hotel Helang & Langkasuka Resort, which manages the MIEC. Langkawi International Airport can handle Boeing 747s and even larger cargo planes.

The venue for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA), which is held every two years, the MIEC will host the official dinners for the Langkawi International Dialogue in Nov 2000 and Pan Asia Hash 2001. The venue carpark can hold 500 cars.

Adjacent to the MIEC is the 232-room Hotel Helang while the 214-room Langkasuka Resort is one kilometre away. Both are 4-star properties which also offer banquet, meeting, convention and exhibition facilities. The MIEC is about 20 km from Kuah Town, the landing point for sea transport from Penang and the mainland departure points of Kuala Perlis



and Kuala Kedah.

Address : Lot 274, Jalan Lima, Mukim Padang Matsirat,

Enquiries : Tel. (604)-962-2020

Fax. (604)-962-2021

E-mail: hotelhelang@po.jaring.my

Hill resort venue at GENTING HIGHLANDS



Well-known for its casino and theme parks, the hill resort of Genting Highlands, currently offers more than 88,000 square feet of convention/ meeting space, 3,900 rooms and 35 F&B outlets spread over four hotels - Genting, Resort, Theme and Highland, and the Ria and Kayangan Apartments.

"Our fifth hotel, the First World Hotel, is scheduled to be completed by end 2001 and will add 6,300 new rooms and convention/meeting facilities for 6,000 delegates," says Alloysius Teng, Genting International assistant vice-president, MICE marketing. "We will be the world's biggest hotel at a single venue and the biggest convention/meetings venue in Malaysia."

According to Teng, the convention/meeting venue, equipped with state-of-the-art MICE facilities, is scheduled for completion by the first quarter of 2001 and the first new 1,000 rooms will be ready by Dec 2000.

There will also be a new 300,000 sq. ft. indoor theme park, two cinemas, a 30-lane bowling alley and F&B outlets. Existing entertainment facilities include the Arena of Stars (6,000 seats), International Showroom (1600 seats), a 10-acre outdoor theme park and 30,000 square feet of indoor theme park.

Among the strengths of Genting Highlands as a MICE venue, Teng lists "the cool weather (around 22 degree Celsius), a city of entertainment and business, the capacity to accommodate the participants under one roof, the ability

to host mega events and easy accessibility from both the KLIA and Kuala Lumpur."

"We are planning an aggressive marketing/promotional campaign not only to create awareness of our MICE facilities but our branding as well," says Teng. "Besides working with relevant print publications, we will be attending regional/world events on MICE and working very closely with conference organisers, incentive houses as well as conducting regional / worldwide road shows."

At 2000 m. above sea level, Genting Highlands is about an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur. The new Awana skyway

offers a breathtaking ride and spectacular views of the forest as the cable cars climb from 2000 feet to 6000 feet above sea level. Recreational facilities include an 18-hole golf course, horse-riding, jungle trekking, abseiling and mountain biking

Address: Sales Department,
23rd Floor Wisma Genting,
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Enquiries: Tel. (603)-200-699
Fax. (603)- 2162-1551
E-mail: jhteng@genting.com.my

Resort attractions at SUNWAY LAGOON & PYRAMID CONVENTION CENTRE

The Sunway Lagoon development in Petaling Jaya comprises a 5-star, 441-deluxe room resort hotel, a theme park, Sunway Pyramid Mega Shopping Centre, and the Sunway Convention and Exhibition Centre on top of the mall.

"At Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, we offer 43 very versatile function spaces, which are able to accommodate the most stringent requirements. The hotel's pillarless Grand Lagoon Ballroom, which can accommodate banquets for 2000 guests, and the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre are ideal venues for international and regional conferences and seminars," says Hanley Chew, Director of Sales & Marketing.

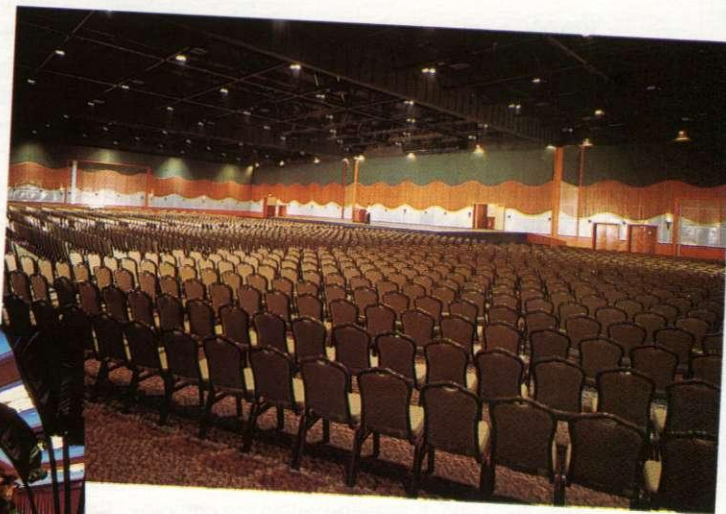
The hotel has over 10,000 sq.m. of meeting space located on four floors. The Grand Lagoon Ballroom, the Grand Bahamas and the Grand Caymans can be divided into smaller function rooms.

Linked to the hotel, the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre extends over 5,600 sq.m. on two floors. The Grand Pyramid function hall can accommodate up to 3,500 delegates in theatre seating, or up to 6,000 cocktail guests including use of the foyer. It can also be split up into three smaller halls. On Level 11 are the Isis, Anukis, Giza and Luxor meeting halls of 160 sq.m. each, which can be divided into smaller rooms. There are another eight meeting rooms of 80 sq.m. each and carparking for 5,000 vehicles.

Facilities include Internet lines in the meeting rooms, high-tech audio-visual and technical support equipment for microphone discussion, electronic voting system, simultaneous translation and video conferencing.

On the venue's competitive advantage, Chew says, "Sunway Lagoon is a resort development with hotel, theme park and shopping which makes us ideal for the convention, business and leisure markets. We remain unique and competitive by presenting attractive packages which tie-in rooms, meals, theme park tickets and shopping vouchers."

Sunway Lagoon has hosted conferences such as the



33rd Malaysian-Singapore Congress on Medicine, Housing Summit - 9th ACI Pacific Regional Conference, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Commonwealth Law Conference

in 1999.

Address: Persiaran Lagoon, Bandar Sunway,
46150 Petaling Jaya
Enquiries: Tel. (603)-582-8000 Fax. (604)- 582-8001
E-mail: sunway@opo.jaring.my
Website: www.sunway.com.my/hotel



Regional benchmark centre NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE (NECC)



In Oct 2000, construction will start on the NECC, located at the site of the former Terminal 1 of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang (Selangor State), about 20 minutes drive from Kuala Lumpur and 45 minutes from the KLIA. Offering

100,000 sq.m. of exhibition space, far surpassing any centres in the region, the NECC is developed by Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad, which manages and operates Malaysia's network of 37 international, domestic and short take-off and landing ports and the Sepang F1 Circuit.

Launching the RM1 billion project, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, said it was the Government's hope that the NECC would become a 'benchmark' for other exhibition and convention centres worldwide in the future.

On the strengths of the NECC, Iskandar Mizal Mahmood, NECC general manager (business development) says: "The NECC is the only exhibition centre in the world offering seamless entry and exit. It incorporates a runway that can take a full load Boeing 747 and there will be customs, immigration and quarantine within the complex. So exhibitors do not need to go through a port, and exhibition visitors and convention participants can also arrive by chartered flights."

"Leveraging on the runway, we are also building the Asia Pacific Auction Centre (APAC), the only 'trade park' in Malaysia," says Iskandar. "Linked to the NECC and operational by Sep 2000, APAC will have the infrastructure for the auction all types of products from aircraft to heavy equipment, livestock and paintings."

"We see the NECC and APAC as providing a value chain for exhibitors. They can exhibit their latest products in one section, and in another section, display and immediately auction off functional but superseded products to mid and lower end clients. In providing a value chain for exhibitors,

NECC can thus capture the full spectrum of clients," he adds.

The NECC is designed around the twin concepts of flexibility and functionality while providing space, access, service and ambiance. The exhibition halls can be divisible into any configuration to suit exhibitors and each hall is equipped with its own dedicated service pods comprising catering facilities; meeting, organiser's and security rooms; and utilities to enable it to function independently. To ensure efficient build-up and breakdown activities, there will be direct access into the halls via service roads for off-loading and on-loading of exhibition items, goods and equipment.

The Exhibition Centre will have 14 contiguous halls at ground level to give high floor loading and support services such as electricity, communications, water, waste and compressed air will be delivered via an underground grid system. Two column-free multi-purpose halls can be converted into a convention hall for 20,000 delegates.

A skywalk and moving pavements will connect the main exhibition hall to a Convention Centre that can handle conventions for 20 to 20,000 delegates. There will be auditoriums, a banquet hall for 3,000 persons, hospitality suites, breakout rooms and in the four-level central concourse, facilities such as retail outlets, banks, cash points, hospitality suites, meeting rooms office suites and business centres.

A 5-star hotel, car parking for more than 5,000 vehicles

and a mosque are some of the amenities. There are plans to upgrade the transportation system connecting the NECC to downtown Kuala Lumpur, including extending the light transit rail (LRT) and rail link systems.

Address : Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport,
47200 Subang, Selangor

Enquiries : Tel. (603)-746-7777 Fax. (603)-746-4177

E-mail: iskandar@mabnet.com.my

Website: www.jaring.my/airport



TOURISM MALAYSIA assists conference planners and organisers by offering impartial advice and practical assistance during the planning of their conferences, meetings, exhibitions, technical visit, incentive travel and special interest programmes. Services available include

- Coordinating meeting with the national airline and related government agencies
- Providing information on suppliers such as professional conference organisers, conference handling agents, exhibition contractors, audio-visual companies, gifts and convention materials suppliers

- Advising on the preparation of bidding document and assist in attendance promotion
- Providing promotional leaflets for mailing to potential delegates and visitor information literature to participants
- Suggesting suitable convention and exhibition facilities and hotels
- Providing convention shells for printing announcement and other details of your event
- Suggesting social programmes and pre and post tour programmes for delegates and accompanying persons
- Coordinating site inspection visits

Battle for F1 Grand Prix Crown In Sepang



Once again, international and Malaysian spectators thrilled to the deafening roar of the speed machines at the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix, the final leg of the 2000 Formula One World Championship, held at the Sepang F1 Circuit near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 20 - 22 October.

In the supercharged fight for the 2000 Formula One World Championship and the Constructors' championship were racing giants Michael Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen for Ferrari and McLaren respectively.

The highly-acclaimed Sepang F1 Circuit proved a fitting arena for the ultimate battle. Sepang scores another notch in the motoring world as the circuit with the most covered seats in the world. From 32,000 covered seats at the 1999 Grand Prix, the second Formula One race in Malaysia was enjoyed by at least 75,000 spectators under roofing comfort, protected from sun and rain.

There are two major spectator areas. The **Welcome Area** on the West-half of the track features the K1, K2, B1, B2 and the Mall Grandstand and the **F1 Village Area**, a spectators' field on the East-half (B3, C, D, E, F and G areas). Both areas have access to the merchandise boutiques, catering and other facilities.

Venue	: Sepang F1 Circuit (near Kuala Lumpur)
Date	: 20-22 Oct 2000
Organiser	: Sepang International Circuit
Ticket Hotline	: Tel : (603)-8526-2222
	Fax : (603)-8526-2227
E-mail	: ticket@malaysiangp.com.my

GETTING THERE

The Sepang F1 Circuit is easily accessible by air, rail and road. It is a 10-minute drive from the KL International Airport (KLIA), and about 45 minutes from Kuala Lumpur via the six-lane North South Expressway, exiting at the Elite Expressway to reach the circuit. Spectators travelling by rail can board the electrified KTM Komuter Service to Nilai Station, and take a 20-minute bus ride to the circuit.



Taiping Lake Gardens, Circular Road

Time Tunnel in Taiping

Stepping into Taiping, a picture of tranquillity despite the trappings of the electronic age, is like time-tunelling back to the late 19th century, when the heritage town was the seat of colonial British power in Perak State.

Few towns in the world can lay claim to being home to a first, but the tranquil heritage town of Taiping in Perak State is the site for 31 firsts in Malaysia! The first major town in Perak developed by the British, Taiping, which comes from the Chinese words meaning everlasting peace, is a cradle of historic landmarks.

A picturesque town, the heart of Taiping consists of heritage buildings, public gardens, shady old roadside trees and ubiquitous shophouses that tell the story of Taiping from

its development in 1874 to present day. Looking at the architecture and the location of these historic buildings, the social fabric of Taiping in the late 19th century begins to unravel, revealing a town that was shared by the British, the Malays, the Chinese who sought their fortunes in the tin

fields and the Indians who came to trade.

Thanks to an active conservation policy by the local authority, the little changed face of Taiping has become its enviable trump card in luring visitors, including numerous ex-servicemen of the British Army who had been based in the town previously.

Taiping was born out of the wars over the tin fields in the Larut district of Perak by rival groups of Chinese miners. Around 1856, a Malay chieftain, Ngah Ibrahim built his fort, residence and store, now known as the Fort of Ngah Ibrahim, in Matang. He established the first modern system of administration in Perak, with a police force, a judge, a magistrate, a treasurer and a clerk.

Over the years, fights broke out between the rival groups of miners and Ngah Ibrahim engaged a Briton, Captain Speedy (formerly Superintendent of Police in Penang), and his soldiers of fortune to quell the 'Larut Wars'. Subsequently, the historic Pangkor Treaty of 1874 obliged the British-appointed Sultan to accept the advice of a colonial officer. Speedy became the Assistant Resident based in Larut and he planned for the establishment of Taiping, giving the town its name, as a happy omen for the future. With peace, miners and shopkeepers flocked to Taiping. History records that within a year, there were 5,000 residents in Taiping.

Situated on a plain only 13 miles from the coast, Taiping's location was strategic. In 1877, the seat of Perak's administration was moved to the royal town of Kuala Kangsar, just south of Taiping. This led to the establishment of several



Peace Hotel

important institutions, including the gaol, the hospital, the police force and the survey office. Even then, Taiping enjoyed the reputation of being a salubrious town, blessed with cool weather, excellent water supply and fringed by scenic hills of the Gunung Hijau range nearby. Maxwell Hill, now known as Bukit Larut, was made a hill resort for the British officers.

During Frank Swettenham's term as Acting Resident (1884-1886), the market, the gaol, the post and telegraph office, the assistant resident's house, the audit and treasury offices and the police offices were rebuilt and expanded. In 1885, the first railway in Peninsular Malaysia, an eight-mile line from the first port in the country, Port Weld (Kuala Sepetang) to Taiping was completed to transport tin from the interior to the seaport. After the Second World War, Ipoh replaced Taiping as the state capital.

In 1999, on its 125th anniversary, Taiping Heritage Town was honoured with a first day cover and a set of commemorative stamps issued by Pos Malaysia.

Heritage sites

The best way to see the Taiping of old is to go on a walking or driving tour of the heritage sites. The heritage tour brochure published by the Taiping Municipal Council lists 39 heritage sites, one of which is the imposing Victorian-styled **Taiping Government Offices** (now the Larut-Matang District Office) on Jalan Kota, which was opened in 1898.

The stately **Perak Museum** (on Main Road / Jalan Taming Sari), the first museum in the country, and the Central School, the first English school in the Malay States, which was later renamed **King Edward VII School**, were both started in 1883. The **Post and Telegraph Office** (Station Road / Jalan Stesen), the first post office in the Federated Malay States, was built in 1884, and is still in use. The post from Taiping *then was carried by a relay of runners and ponies.*

The British also built the quaint **Police Station** (Jalan Kota) in 1881, later adding the fortified clock tower. Initially built of timber, the police station doubled as a fire station for the first fire brigade in the Federated Malay States. It is now the Taiping Tourist Association Information Office. The **Taiping Market** (Market Square), a timber post and truss structure started in 1884, is Malaysia's best-preserved example of a major 19th century market building.

Other significant structures built by the British are the **Taiping Gaol** on Main Road (1879) and the **Secretary to**



Perak Museum,
Main Road



Taiping War Cemetery, Waterfall Road

Resident's House (1890s) on Esplanade Road, presently the District Officer's residence. The **Malay States Guides Barracks** (Main Road) built in the 1880s is the most intact, historically important military complex of its kind in Malaysia today. The **Town Rest House**, built in 1894, is today's Lagenda Inn and **Old Saints Church** (Main Road), the first Anglican church in the Malay States, was opened in 1886.

Not to be missed for its picturesque merit are three famous schools in the town - the **Taiping Convent** (Convent Road), **St. George's Institution** (Station Road) and **Lady Treacher's Girls' School** (Upper Museum Road). Of significant interest is the well-maintained **Taiping War Cemetery** (Waterfall Road), which contains the graves of Commonwealth casualties in the Taiping area at the start of World War II in then Malaya.

The presence of the early Chinese community in Taiping is best remembered through the 'association buildings'. Comprising immigrants from different parts of China, the Chinese formed associations to protect their well-being and interests. In 1887, Kapitan Chung Keng Kooi, who sat on the Perak State Council, and others founded the Kwan-tung hui-kuan or **Cantonese Association** and its building on Temple Street. On Jalan Kota are the **Shun-te hui-kuan** building (around 1895) and the **Hokkien Association** building (completed 1931) while the **Tseng Lung Hakka Association** building on Market Road was founded around 1895.

Lagenda Hotel, Station Road





Taiping Government Offices

The oldest mosque in Taiping, of hexagonal shape, was built by the Indian Muslim community in 1897 and given to the Malay community in the early 20th century, when it was renamed, **Masjid Melayu**. The **Keling Mosque** (Jalan Kota) was formerly a timber structure built by the Tamil Muslims, who settled at Kota, at the southern end of Taiping town to trade in textile, grain and cattle. The Ceylonese Tamils came to Perak in the 1880s to join the civil service and build the railways. In 1901, the **Ceylon Association** put up their building on Station Road.

A visit to Taiping would not be complete without seeing the famous **Taiping Lake Gardens** situated near Bukit Larut. Established in 1880, it is the oldest and according to Taiping residents, the most beautiful lake garden in Malaysia. The drooping branches of the ancient raintrees never fail to attract the visitor and make the gardens picture postcard perfect.

In the Taiping Lake Gardens is Malaysia's first Zoo, established in 1961. Housing a variety of exotic animals, the **Taiping Zoo** is a big attraction in northern Malaysia. **Larut Hill Resort**, with bungalows for singles, groups and families, offers a breathtaking view of the lush greenery below, clean cool air, sounds of the forest and a cascading waterfall. Access is by four-wheel drive service.

Other attractions around Taiping are the **Bukit Jana Golf & Country Club**, the **Kota Ngah Ibrahim Historical Complex** and the **Warisan Resort** at Bukit Gantang, which provides outdoor recreational activities such as mountain climbing, jungle trekking and fishing. The **Matang Mangrove Forest**, home to a multitude of tree species, birds and marine life, is truly a haven for nature lovers. Covering 40,000 hectares, it is recognised as one of the world's best-managed mangrove swamps and Perak has received various international awards for it. □

Taiping Tourist Information Office



ACCOMMODATION

Taiping has several hotels offering different levels of accommodation, from modest lodging at very reasonable rates to new establishments with modern facilities. Newer hotels are Legend Inn Taiping, Hotel Seri Malaysia and Lagenda, the refurbished former Town Rest House.

GETTING THERE

Taiping is 88 km from Penang and 302 km from Kuala Lumpur. The daily Malaysia Airlines Kuala Lumpur-Ipoh flight takes about 30 minutes. From Ipoh, buses and taxis to Taiping are readily available. Visitors can easily drive to Taiping on the North South Expressway. There are also frequent coach / express bus services from Penang and Kuala Lumpur.

INFORMATION

Contact Taiping Municipal Council, Public Relations Unit, Tel. (605)-8080-777 Fax. (605)-8078-354 or Taiping Tourist Association, Tel. (605)-8089-888 Fax. (605)-8061-818, for the 'Guide to Taiping's heritage sites and buildings' and other information.

Nationwide Merdeka Month Celebrations to commemorate 43 years of independence



A nation of 23 million people cheered and celebrated as Malaysia attained her 43rd year of independence on 31 August 2000. Hotels, malls, public institutions and residences proudly displayed the Malaysian flag. For the first time, the month-long Merdeka (independence) celebrations kicked off with a launch on 17 August at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur by YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The highlight at national and state levels, was the countdown to 12 midnight on 30 August and the raising of the Malaysian flag, followed by the National Day parade. On 31 August, His Majesty The King of Malaysia, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, government leaders and a huge crowd enjoyed a spectacular Merdeka Day Parade at Dataran Shah Alam (Selangor State) that included rhythmic gymnastics, National Day logo formation and choir presentations.

All the states of Malaysia organised their respective celebrations, such as parades, stage shows, competitions and exhibitions. Some of the Merdeka celebrations were the National Museum's exhibition on independence, the National Symphony Orchestra special performance at the National Theatre, a top spinning competition in Kuching, Games of Malaysia Festival, Flag Runs, Treasure Hunt, poetry reading and arts festival.

Making its debut at the Sepang FI Circuit on 30 August was the Merdeka 2000 Endurance, the first midnight 12-hour gruelling endurance in Malaysia.

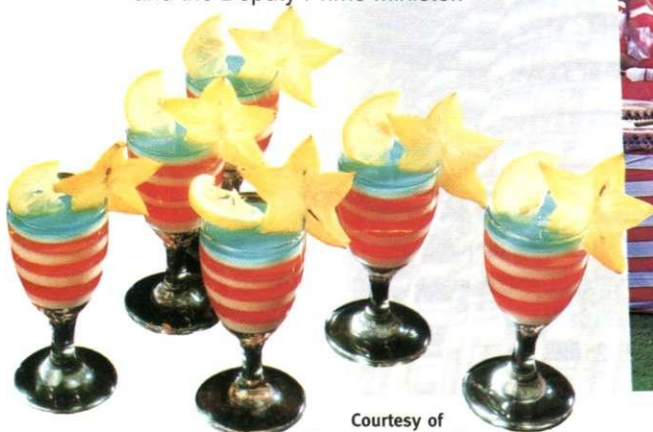
The closing ceremony of the Merdeka Month celebrations in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah State) featured Sabahan culture and arts. Distinguished guests included His Majesty The Deputy King of Malaysia, the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.



Courtesy of Hotel Equatorial KL



Courtesy of Federal Hotel



Courtesy of
Hyatt Regency Saujana



Rombong Basket Weaving

Crafting treasured baskets the traditional way in Malacca

Attractive in straw colour highlighted with contrasting fuschia or emerald flower motifs and designs, the *rombong* basket is both a decorative item and a useful container. With a base and a cover, the *rombong* basket can be displayed as a

Rombong baskets are often made as a single item, or as a nest of three or five baskets. They come in a variety of colours and shapes - square, round, oval, triangular, hexagonal and diamond. Equally popular with tourists and locals, *rombong* baskets are still very much in use in

jewellery or cosmetics box, a sewing basket, a container for knick-knacks or just a room décor item. Large ones are often used for storing clothing.

Weaving the multi-purpose *rombong* basket from dried *pandan* or *mengkuang* leaves is an age-old craft practised only in Malacca today. One of the techniques of *rombong* basket weaving, a popular cottage industry, is known as 'mad weaving' (*anyaman gila*) in which, in the eyes of the uninitiated, the weaving seems to be done in an uncoordinated, crazy style. Yet the result is a beautifully woven basket that attests to the intricate handiwork and skill of the weaver.

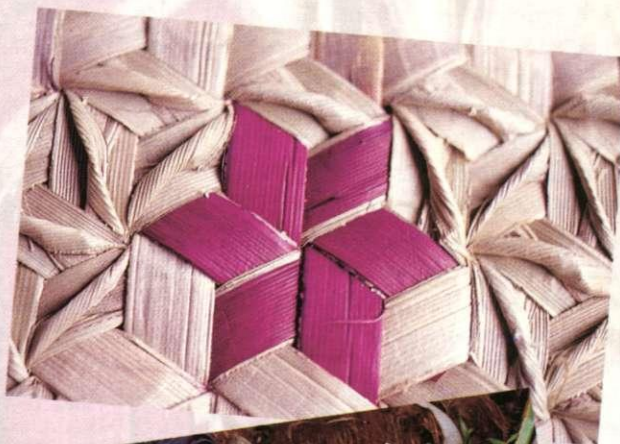
Both *pandan* and *mengkuang* leaves are natural materials commonly found in swampy or sandy areas. The weaver first selects suitable leaves to cut which are then strengthened and softened by scorching over a coal fire. The leaves are next cut into strips of equal sizes by a hand-held wooden comb, bundled up and left to soak in water for two days to bleach them. The bleached strips of leaves are dried in the sun before they are coloured, and dried again.

Strip by strip, the weaver smoothens and softens the leaves with a piece of wood before weaving begins. In the cool air of the early morning, holding six strips in a criss cross, the weaver starts to weave them vertically and horizontally. The number of strips and weaving steps determine the size of the *rombong* basket. A frame made from the skin of the coconut palm frond is inserted into the base of the *rombong* basket to strengthen it. Gradually, the strips are woven upwards to form the body.

Making *rombong* baskets involves not only weaving, but also embroidering exquisite designs on the finished product. The most common motif is the *bunga tanjung*, a fragrant flower found in Malaysia. Having woven the base, the weaver 'embroiders' it by inserting dyed strips through the weave to make surface designs. She then proceeds to weave and embroider the cover.



Malaysia. Big or small, a *rombong* basket is not only a well-crafted ethnic product, it is a work of art. Totally made by hand, it speaks of the dedication of the weaver, from selecting the leaves to embroidering the last flower on the cover. Like other fascinating handcrafted products of Malaysia, the *rombong* basket is a labour of love, a treasured gift.



For information on *Rombong* basket gifts, contact Craft Complex, Jalan Conlay, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. Tel. (603)-2162-7459 Fax. (603)-2162-2181

International Rainforest Challenge (RFC) 2000

The adventure world will be making a date with Malaysia from 25 Nov - 5 Dec. With participants and print and electronic media from 30 countries including Malaysia coming, RFC 2000 will be the biggest internationally represented 4x4 adventure action event ever held anywhere in the world.

Mountainous jungle terrain, mud, rain, hot tropical sun, slippery tracks and fast flowing rivers are just some of the 'thrills' that will greet the women and men in 4x4 vehicles and on Enduro motorbikes.

Perak State will host the opening ceremony in Ipoh with

full Malaysian hospitality and cultural colors. Flagged-off at Dataran Ipoh in Ipoh on 25 Nov, the teams will encounter 18 Special Stages along the 1000 km route covering Ipoh, Lasah, highlands of the

Main Range (Titiwangsa), Gua Musang, Hulu Terengganu, crossing the majestic Kenyir Lake and ending in **Kuala Terengganu** on 5 Dec.

While testing their mental and physical strength against the forces of nature, the participants will also have an excellent opportunity to see the rugged beauty of the interior regions of Peninsular Malaysia. At the Primula Parkroyal



Beach Resort by the South China Sea, the winners will walk away with the Challenge Trophy and other prizes including airtickets from Malaysian Airlines, the event official airline.



Information :

(Perak stage)

Zul Azlan of Perak State Economic Unit (UPEN)

Tel : (605)-253-2800 Fax : (605)-241-8173

(Terengganu stage)

Assistant State Secretary (Tourism, Arts & Culture)

Tel : (609)-623-1957 ext 2914 Fax : (609)-622-1957

Organiser : Luis Wee of Motorsports Adventure

Tel. (603)-466-2665 Fax. (603)-469-2680

E-mail: jawee@pc.jaring.my

7th Tasik Kenyir Fishing Competition

Tasik (Lake) Kenyir in Taman Negara (National Park) in Terengganu State is Southeast Asia's largest man-made lake and Malaysia's biggest expanse of fresh water. With 340 islands, the lake is also among the top fishing spots in Malaysia.

With some RM20,000 prize money to be won, the 7th Tasik Kenyir Fishing Competition is an excellent opportunity to hook a prize-winning fish and enjoy the natural beauty of Malaysia. The competition categories are toman, kelah, baung (catfish), sebarau and there are four prizes in each category. The angler who hooks the heaviest fish of any type above 10 kg will win RM5,000. No angler has managed to claim this prize yet! The starting point is at Gawi Jetty and competition fishing is at Sungai Petang. The organiser is offering a 3 days / 2 nights package that includes boathouse or campsite accommodation and meals.

Date : 2 - 5 Nov 2000

Venue : Gawi Jetty / Sungai Petang

Organiser : KETENGAH

Tel. (609)-822-2100 Fax. (609)-822-1345

E-mail: ktengah@po.jaring.my



Hunting the toman in the flooded forests of Tasik Kenyir

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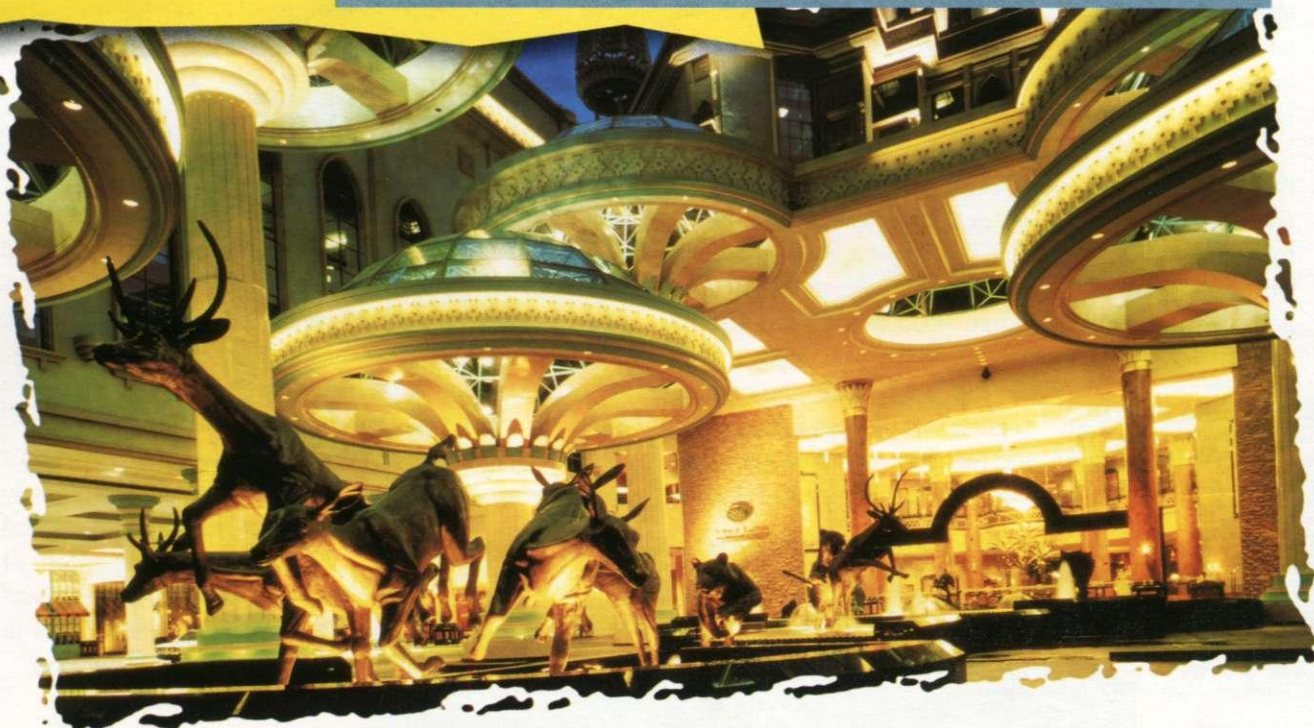
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Hotline: 603-5513 2000

www.selangor2000.com.my

Wood carver's poetry

Woodcarving is a living craft in Malaysia, practised in all parts of the country for creating utilitarian objects and for decorative purposes. From the enormous variety of timber species in the jungle, a wide range of objects are carved, such as musical instruments, Melanau burial poles as seen in Sarawak State, handles of walking sticks, the hilt and sheath of the *keris* and exquisite boxes.

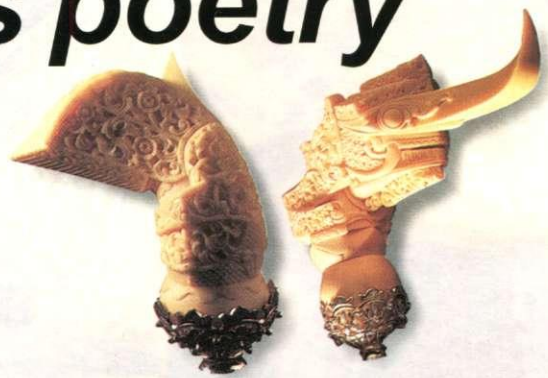
The Seri Menanti Palace (Negri Sembilan State), built entirely of wood in the early part of 20th century, has carvings on 26 of its pillars as well as a carved verandah border extending 125 feet. In the Terengganu State Museum, woodcarving can also be seen on the doors, wood panelling and stairways. Intricate filigree woodcarvings can also be seen on old houses and palaces on the East Coast.

The *orang asli* (indigenous people) also practise woodcarving and two groups are well-known for their work. The elaborate figures

over the composition and where there is a central motif, the design must be repeated around it. Consistent with Islamic view, spaces between elements are approximately the same size as the carved elements and the elements must be real or imaginary plants, and never humans or animals. Hence, the carvings often show plants that are spirally, creepy or extended with leaves, flowers or buds, or Koranic verses.

Looking at the flowing design of leaves and flowers on a Malaysian wood carving is to see the woodcarver's poetry

in motion, lovingly chiselled on wood. For a selection of beautiful wood carving gifts, visit Craft Complex showrooms in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi.



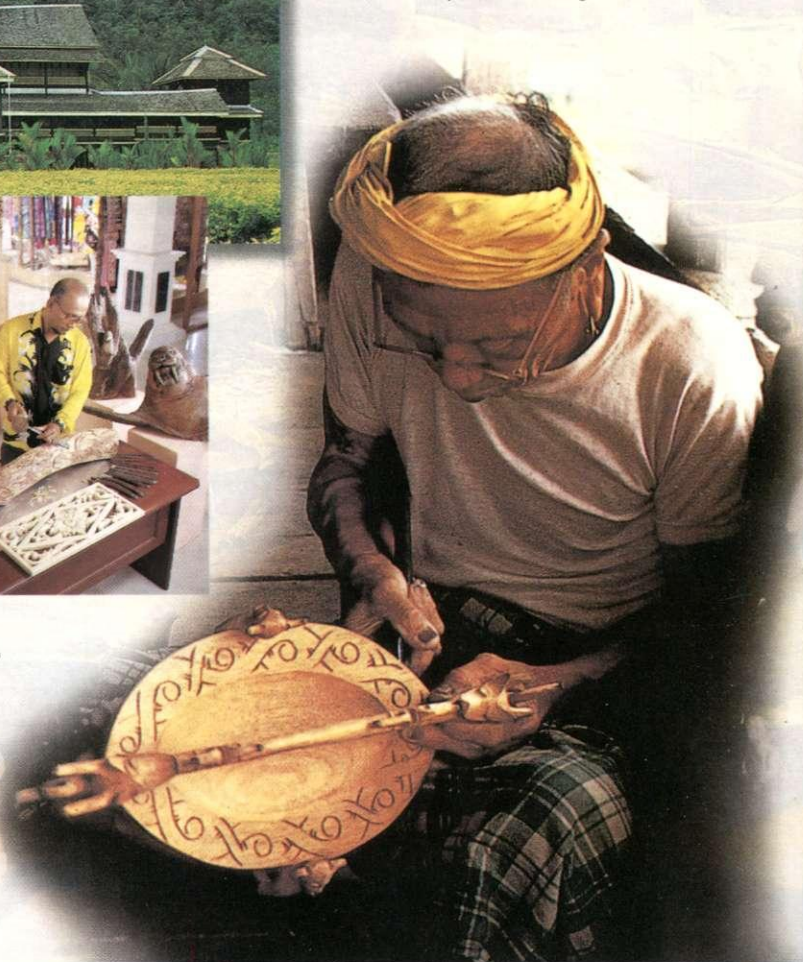
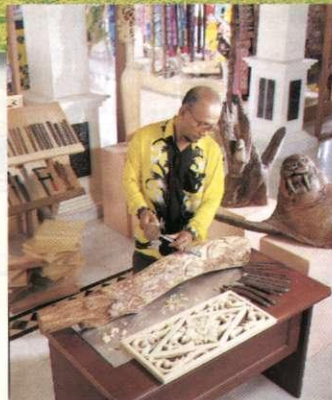
representing
forest and
household spirits
carved by the Jah Hut of

Pahang State and the ritual masks by the Mah Meri of Carey Island (Selangor State) are especially well-known.

Many wooden houses, built on stilts, in the *kampung* (village), also display open carved panels above door and windows to serve as ventilation grills, while lace-like carving adorn the fascia boards.

The traditionalist Malay wood carvers continue to work the way their predecessors used to, carving traditional forms with tools they make themselves according to the rules passed down the generations. Carvings seen today reflect a mixture of old motifs and new ideas and forms.

In Malay wood carving, elements are evenly distributed



Elegance in Songket

Lustrous and shimmering, Malaysian *songket* material never fails to cast its spell on both the wearer and the admirer. Exquisite and elegant, infused with gold and silver silk threads that catch the light, *songket* is ideal for formal occasions.

Available in a range of brilliant primary colours, pastels, deep maroon, dark green or black, *songket* is traditionally woven in silk but occasionally in cotton, sometimes a combination of both. Through the centuries, *songket* has been the material of royalty and the Malay nobility. The Malay community holds no western fabric in such esteem, up to now.

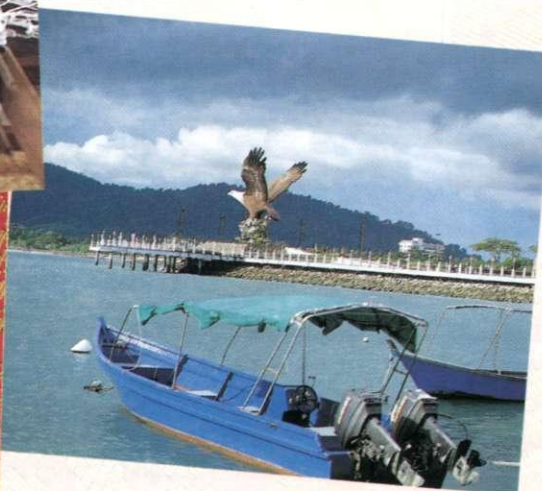
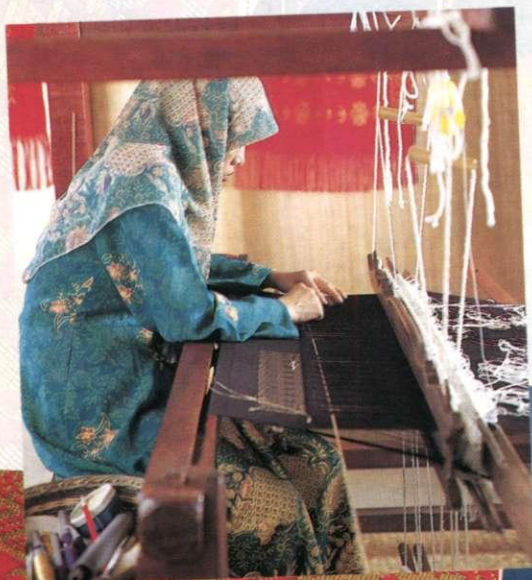
Despite its aura of exclusivity, *songket* is created on a simple, two harness floor loom called the 'kek' that has remained unchanged over the centuries. A skilled master weaver sets the pattern into the warping frame. Motifs are often flowers, leaves and ferns.

The 4-feet high wooden loom has a built-in bench for the weaver to sit. As the weaver presses the pedals with her feet to move the harnesses up and down while passing

the bobbin of weft thread from side to side, her creativity unfolds as the *songket* begins to take form. An experienced weaver takes about six hours to weave just 16 centimetres!

The art of *songket* weaving is most developed in the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang. Apart from making glamorous evening wear, *songket* is made into ladies handbags and shoes and cushion covers. *Songket* also makes a beautiful wall hanging or work of art to be framed.

Visitors to the Craft Complex in Kuala Lumpur can see a live demonstration of *songket* weaving. A selection of beautiful *songket* gifts is also available at Craft Complex showrooms in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi.



Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex (Business Hours : 8:45 am - 6:00 pm daily)
Section 63, Jalan Conlay, 50450 Kuala Lumpur

Tel. (603)-2162-7459 / (603)-2162-7533 Fax. (603)-2162-2181

Langkawi Craft Complex (Business Hours : 8:45 am - 6:00 pm daily)
Teluk Yu, 07000 Langkawi

Tel. (604)-959-1913, Fax. (604)-959-2340

Tourism attractions aplenty in Johor

"We still have great food and shopping, but we can also offer islands, beaches and watersports, culture, eco-tourism, agro-tourism and homestay, golf plus a number of exciting events."



For many tourists, especially those from Singapore, going to Johor is often for seafood, eating out, shopping or just having fun. For medium and long-haul tourists based in Singapore, Johor Bahru is the optional half-day trip. This limited perception of tourism attractions in the state is set to change under the new driving force of YB Dato' Chua Soi Lek, Johor's State Executive Councillor for Tourism & Environment.

"Johor is a large state and there is a diversity of tourism attractions," enthuses Dato' Chua. "We still have

great food and shopping, but we can also offer islands, beaches and watersports, culture, eco-tourism, agro-tourism and homestay, golf plus a number of exciting events."

"For those who love islands, Johor has the most number of holiday islands and some are still untouched. The water around these islands is very clear and is ideal for snorkelling, diving and sailing," recommends Dato' Chua. "I also think we have the best beaches, that are untouched by development, such as Desaru and Air Papan in Mersing.

Among the more well-known islands off the east coast of Johor are Rawa, Besar, Sibul, Tengah and Tinggi, which can be reached by boat from Mersing. There are facilities for water sports off all these islands. Visitors can see the leatherback turtles lay eggs in the month of July on Tengah island. Accommodation is available on Rawa, Besar and Tinggi. The lesser-known islands of Kukus, Lima and Sibul Tengah are ideal for island hopping.

"We won't overdevelop Johor's islands," assures Dato' Chua, adding that "the islands are very popular with the Scandinavians."

Dato' Chua is excited about packaging the islands with a rainforest experience. "The Endau Rompin Park, where there are more than 200 species of birds and other fascinating flora and fauna, is already open for eco-tourism," he points out. "The park offers a 'back to nature' experience, and there are trained nature guides to take visitors on a nature interpretive trail."

"In Oct 2000, the RM 6 million Endau Rompin Research & Educational Centre, set up with the assistance of DANCED (Danish Corporation for Environment) will open. This will help to create greater awareness and promotion of the park," notes Dato' Chua. He is also firm about maintaining the limit on the number of visitors per day / month as recommended in the park's development plan prepared by The Malaysian Nature Society.

Dato' Chua is also upbeat about agro-tourism and golfing holidays. "Johor is the biggest producer of oil palm, chicken, ducks, eggs, pineapple and orchids," he says. "Another exciting development is the Air Hitam area, where some 6,000 acres will be developed by the federal government into a high-tech agricultural showcase." Dato' Chua reckons both the domestic and foreign tourist markets would be interested in agro-tourism.

As a golfing destination, Johor has been attracting golfers from Japan and Singapore, apart from golfers from other states in Malaysia, as there are numerous golf clubs in the state. In the Johor Bahru area there are 20 golf clubs, including the 5-star luxury golf resort of Pulai Springs. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, the two 18-hole USGA class 72 golf courses in Pulai Springs have won accolades from the golfing fraternity.



New products and events

Keenly aware of the growing competition from neighbouring destinations, Dato' Chua is pushing for product development and more activities for tourists in the state to keep tourist arrivals up.

Dato' Chua is understandably exuberant about bringing to Johor a new event, the Inaugural Second Link Run (22 Oct) in cooperation with the Singapore Ministry of Sports and NSTP as official sponsor. The run can accept as many as 5,000 participants.

On anchor events that draw in the tourists, Dato' Chua describes the annual Kite Festival (Pesta Layang Layang) and the Desaru Half Ironman International Triathlon as very successful events. He also plans to make the Gunung Ledang Challenge run (from Asahan in Melaka to Tangkak in Johor) more international, and is looking forward to the Mersing GP Joran deep sea fishing competition in 2001, where more than 1,400 participants are expected.

On new products, Dato' Chua identifies Gunung Ledang, where work has started on a new development - Lagenda Gunung Ledang, with entry from Sagil town. "There will be chalets and an information and exhibition centre to promote the culture and history of Gunung Ledang," says Dato' Chua, adding that he intends to tap the Singapore and North Malaysian market for this product. The development is expected to be ready in two years.

Gunung Ledang, known as Mount Ophir in olden days, (1,276 m) is in the northern part of the state, close to the border with Melaka. According to a famous Malaysian legend, it was the home of a princess who was wooed by Sultan Mansur Shah of Melaka during the 15th century. The

Gunung Ledang Resort at the foothills has an outdoor activity centre offering rockface climbing, mountain biking, archery and night trekking. Accommodation is available at the resort and there are several camp sites.

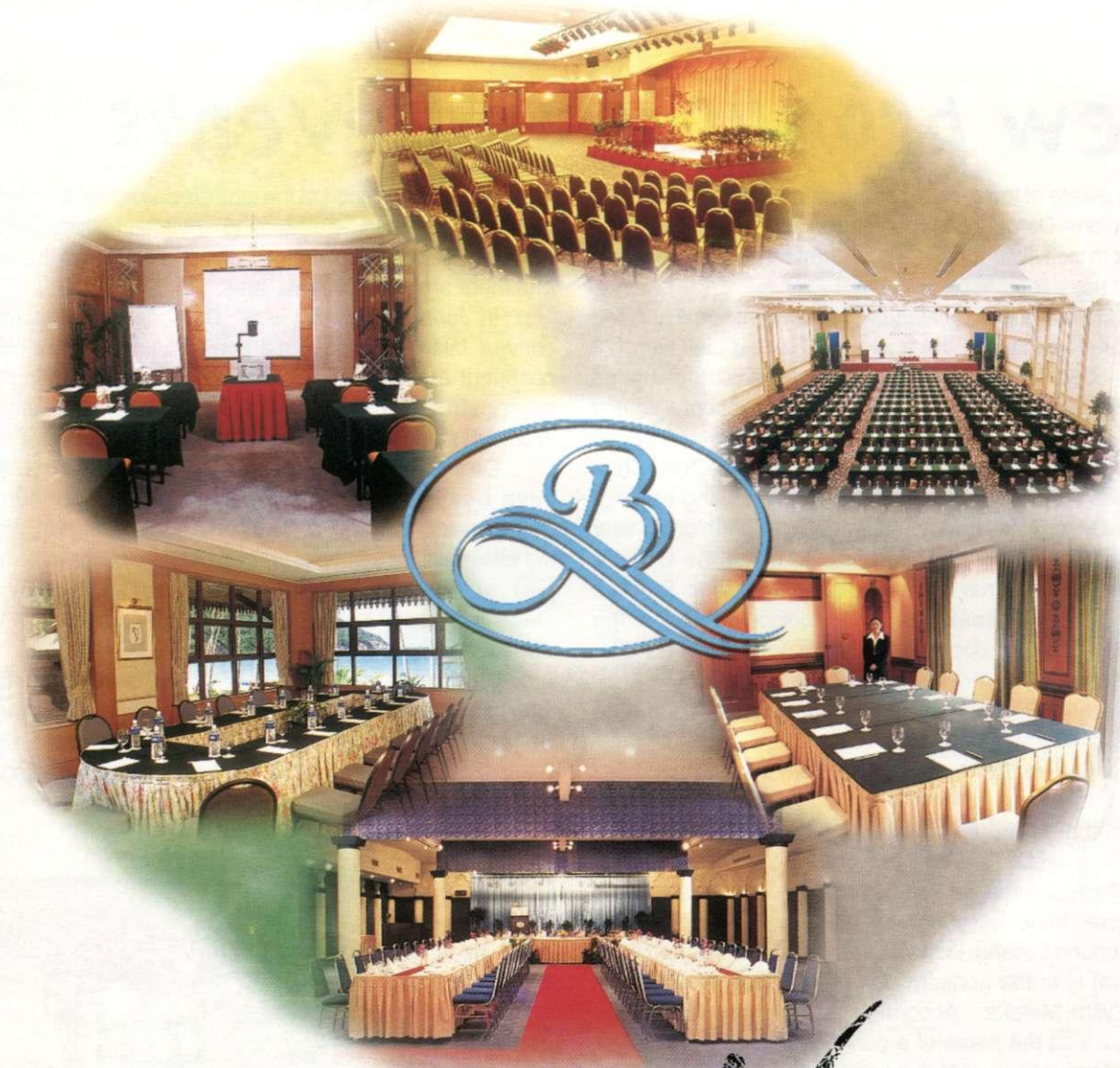
In Johor Bahru city itself, Dato' Chua has plans to convert Jalan Meldrum into a handicraft and culture street, confident that tourists will find the street interesting and appreciate a pedestrianised area to shop or browse around. Work will start by the end of the year.

On the homestay programme, Dato' Chua says 27 sites have been identified as having potential for further development. "One is Sarang Buaya near Muar town, where the villagers are involved in tapping the coconut palm to make *gula melaka*, honey culture and coconut shell handicraft. There is a crocodile farm there and a river tour can be started," he says.

Dato' Chua identifies Johor's main tourist markets as Singapore, Indonesia, the Middle East, Japan and China (in that order). Since taking over the tourism portfolio, Dato' Chua has been attending the key travel marts, including the Arabian Travel Mart 2000 in Dubai, UAE.

"There are definitely more Arab visitors coming to Johor now," he says, adding that Johor's culture displays some Arab influence, as seen in the *zapin* dance.





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NOVEMBER**1 - 2 Nov**

**Jungle Trekking, Hutan Lipur
Puncak Janing, Kedah**
Kedah State Forestry Department
Tel. 04-733-3901

3 - 5 Nov

**Taman Negara Fest 2000,
Sungai Relau Merapoh, Pahang**
Wildlife Department
Tel. 03-9075-2872 Fax. 03-9075-2873

2 - 5 Nov

**Tasik Kenyir Fishing Competition,
Terengganu**
KETENGAH
Tel. 09-822-1101 Fax. 09-822-1345

4 - 7 Nov

**Bamboo Rafting Challenge, Kg.
Pinang/Ampang Jajar, Kedah**
National Sports Council
Tel. 04-730-3362 Fax. 04-734-2622

5 Nov

Lumut Bridge Run, Lumut, Perak
NSTP Group
Tel. 05-254-0323 Fax. 05-255-4049

6 Nov

**Deepavali Open House, Little India,
Penang**
Penang State Tourism Industry
Committee
Tel. 04-6340-1111 Fax. 04-644-7777

11 - 19 Nov

**Taiping Zoorama Week, Taiping,
Perak**
Taiping Municipal Council
Tel. 05-808-0777 Fax. 05-808-8354

12 Nov

**Pasir Salak International Run,
Kampung Gajah, Perak**
Kampung Gajah District Office
Tel. 05-631-1244 Fax. 05-631-1863

12 Nov

**Bukit Merah Laketown Fishing
Regatta, Bukit Merah Lake, Perak**
Bukit Merah Laketown Resort
Tel. 05-897-8888 Fax. 05-897-8000

12 Nov

**Remembrance Day, World War II
Memorial Park, Labuan**
Tel. 087-417-862 Fax. 087-417-861

15 - 18 Nov

**Kedah 4 x 4 Challenge 2000, Tasik
Pedu, Kedah**
Kedah State Secretariat
Tel. 04-730-1957 Fax. 04-733-0908

25 Nov - 5 Dec

**International Rainforest Challenge
2000, Perak & Terengganu**
Motorsports Adventure
Tel. 03-466-2665 Fax. 03-469-2680

E-mail: jawee@pc.jaring.my
Perak State Economic Unit (UPEN)
Tel. 05-253-2800 Fax. 05-241-8173

DECEMBER**2 - 5 Dec**

**International Rainforest Challenge
2000, Terengganu**
Motorsports Adventure
Tel. 03-466-2665 Fax. 03-469-2680
E-mail: jawee@pc.jaring.my
Assistant State Secretary
(Tourism, Arts & Culture)
Tel. 09-623-1957 ext. 2914
Fax. 09-622-1957

3 Dec

**Kota Belud Tamu Besar, Kota
Belud, Sabah**
Sabah Tourism Promotion Board
Tel. 088-212-121 Fax. 088-212-075

3 Dec

**Penang International Ballroom
Dancing, Bayview Beach Resort,
Penang**
Malaysia Dancer Association
Tel. 04-261-6495 Fax. 04-261-5497

5 Dec

Starwalk, Esplanade, Penang
The Star (Penang)
Tel. 04-262-4361 Fax. 04-261-1410

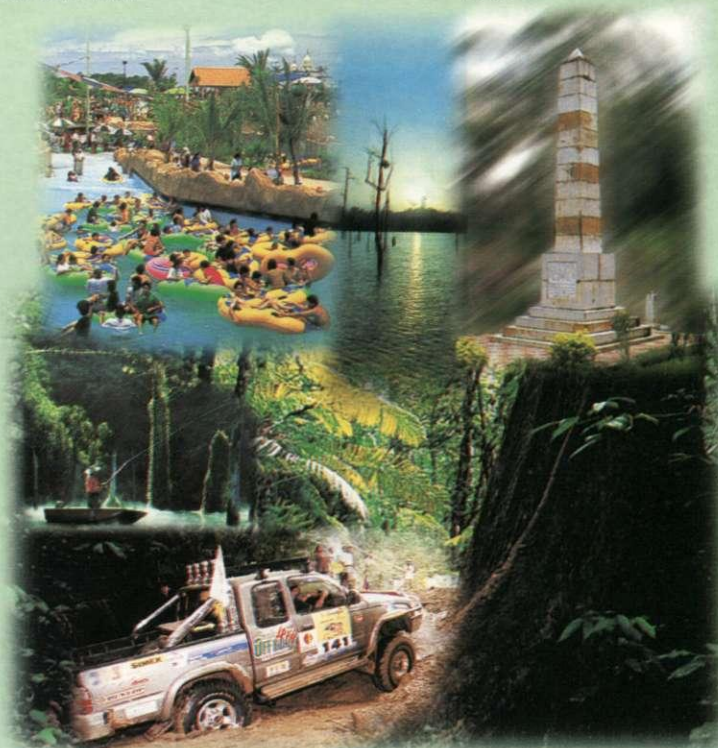
31 Dec

**Year 2001 Concert, Esplanade,
Penang**
Penang State Tourism Industry
Committee
Tel. 04-6340-1111 Fax. 04-644-7777

31 Dec

**New Year's Eve Street Party,
Bintang Walk, Kuala Lumpur**
YTL Corporation
Tel. 03-2716-8398 Fax. 03-2715-7002

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45, Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
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Fax : (03) 293-5884/0207
URL : <http://tourism.gov.my>
E-Mail : tourism@tourism.gov.my

REGIONAL OFFICES

NORTHERN REGION

No. 10, Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, 10200 Penang.
Tel : (04) 261-9067, 262-0066
Fax : (04) 262-3688
E-Mail : mtpbpen@tourism.gov.my

SOUTHERN REGION

Suite 5.2, No 2, Johor Tourist Information Centre (JOTIC)
Jalan Ayer Molek, 80000 Johor Bahru.
Tel : (07) 222-3590/3591
Fax : (07) 223-5502
E-Mail : mtpbjhb@tourism.gov.my

EAST COAST REGION

Tingkat 5, Menara Yayasan Islam Terengganu,
Jalan Sultan Omar, 20300 Kuala Terengganu.
Tel : (09) 622-1433/1893
Fax : (09) 622-1791
E-Mail : mtpbkt@tourism.gov.my

SABAH OFFICE

Ground Floor, EON CMG Life Building,
No. 1, Jalan Sagunting, 88000 Kota Kinabalu.
Tel : (088) 248-698, 211-732
Fax : (088) 241-764
E-Mail : mtpbbki@tourism.gov.my

SARAWAK OFFICE

2nd Floor, Bangunan Rugayah,
Jalan Song Thian Cheok, 93100 Kuching.
Tel : (082) 246-575/775
Fax : (082) 246-442
E-Mail : mtpbkch@tourism.gov.my

OVERSEAS OFFICES

AUSTRALIA

Perth
56, William Street, Perth, WA 6000, AUSTRALIA.
Tel : 08-9-481-0400
Fax : 08-9-321-1421
E-Mail : toumal@omen.net.au

Sydney

65, York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA.
Tel : 02-9-299-4441/2/3
Fax : 02-9-262-2026
E-Mail : httan@tourism.gov.my

CANADA

830, Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C.,
CANADA V6Z 2K4.
Tel : 604-689-8899
Fax : 604-689-8804
E-Mail : mtpb.vancouver@tourism.gov.my

FRANCE

Office National du Tourisme de Malaisie,
29, Rue des Pyramides, 75001 Paris, FRANCE.
Tel : 01-4297-4171
Fax : 01-4297-4169
E-Mail : malaisie@club-internet.fr

GERMANY

Rossmarkt 11, 60311 Frankfurt Am Main,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.
Tel : 069-283-782/783
Fax : 069-1337-9121
E-Mail : mtpb.frankfurt@arcormail.de

HONG KONG

Ground Floor, Malaysia Building,
No. 47 - 50, Gloucester Road, HONG KONG.
Tel : 852-2528-5810/5811
Fax : 852-2865-4610
E-Mail : mtpbhkg@netvigator.com

ITALY

Secondo Piano, Piazza San Babila 4/B,
20122 Milano, ITALY.
Tel : 02-796-702
Fax : 02-796-806
E-Mail : mtpb.milan@tourism.gov.my

JAPAN

Osaka
10th Floor, Cotton Nissay Building,
1-8-2, Utsubo-Honmachi, Nishi-ku,
Osaka 550, JAPAN.
Tel : 06-6444-1220
Fax : 06-6444-1380
E-Mail : mtpbosa@movenet.or.jp

Tokyo

5F Chiyoda Building, 1-6-4, Yurakucho,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006, JAPAN.
Tel : 03-3501-8691
Fax : 03-3501-8692
E-Mail : mtpb.tokyo@tourism.gov.my
URL : <http://www.tourismmalaysia.or.jp>

SINGAPORE

10, Collyer Quay, #01-06 # 18-02,
Ocean Building, SINGAPORE 049315.
Tel : 02-532-6321/6351
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E-Mail : mtpb.singapore@tourism.gov.my

SOUTH AFRICA

1st Floor, Hutton Court, cnr. of Jan Smuts
Avenue & Summit Road, Hyde Park 2196,
Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA.
Tel : 011-327-0400/0401
Fax : 011-327-0205
E-Mail : mtpb.johannesburg@tourism.gov.my

SOUTH KOREA

1st Floor, Han Young Building,
57-9, Seosomun-dong, Chung-ku,
Seoul, SOUTH KOREA.
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E-Mail : mtpb@users.united.co.kr

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111 21 Stockholm, SWEDEN.
Tel : 46-8-24 99 00
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E-Mail : mtpb.stockholm@tourism.gov.my

TAIWAN

Suite C, 8th Floor, Hung Tai Centre,
170, Tun Hwa North Road, Taipei, TAIWAN.
Tel : 02-514-9704/9734
Fax : 02-514-9973
E-Mail : mtpbtpe@ms29.hinet.net

THAILAND

Unit 1001, Liberty Square,
287, Silom Road, Bangkok 10500,
THAILAND.
Tel : 02-631-1994/5/6
Fax : 02-631-1998

UNITED KINGDOM

57, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DU,
UNITED KINGDOM.
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Fax : 0171-930-9015
E-Mail : mtpb.london@tourism.gov.my

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Los Angeles
818 West 7th Street, Suite 970,
Los Angeles, CA 90017, U.S.A.
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Fax : 213-689-1530
E-Mail : malinfo@aol.com

New York

120 East 56th Street, Suite 810
New York, NY 10022, U.S.A.
Tel : 212-754-1113/1114/1115
212-754-1117 (D/L)
212-754-1116
Fax : 212-754-1116
E-Mail : mtpb@aol.com
URL : <http://www.visitmalaysia.com>

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Lot 1, Plaza Putra, Jalan Raja
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-293-6664

Kuala Lumpur Railway Station
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-2274-6063
Fax : 03-293-5884

Level 2, Putra World Trade Centre
45, Jalan Tun Ismail
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-441-1295
Fax : 03-293-5884

Malaysia Tourist Information Centre (MATIC)
109 Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-2164-3929 Ext. 18/19
Fax : 03-262-1149

Penang International Airport
11900 Pulau Pinang
Tel : 04-643-0501

Langkawi Tourist Information Centre
Jalan Persiaran Putra
07000 Kuah, Langkawi
Tel : 04-966-7789
Fax : 04-966-7889
E-Mail : mtpblgk@tourism.gov.my

Langkawi International Airport
07100 Padang Mat Sirat, Langkawi
Tel : 04-955-7155

Bukit Kayu Hitam Tourist Information Centre
06500 Changlun, Kedah
Tel : 04-922-2078
Faxes : 04-922-2078
E-mail : mtpbbkh@tourism.gov.my

Lumut Tourist Information Centre
Jalan Sultan Idris Shah
32200 Lumut, Perak
Tel : 05-683-4057

Tanjung Puteri Tour Bus Complex
Tambak Johor
80000 Johor Bahru, Johor
Tel : 07-222-3592

Johor Causeway
80000 Johor Bahru, Johor
Tel : 07-224-9485

Labuan Tourist Information Centre
Lot 4260, Jalan Dewan/Jalan Berjaya
87007 Labuan, W.P. Labuan
Tel : 087-423-445/446
Fax : 087-423-446



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Dine at the most exotic places for seafood and the laksa, Johor's popular dish. Kukup, a town famous for its mouth-watering seafood, has restaurants on stilts by the sea.

Bask in the tranquility and the serenity of the countryside, on the casuarina-lined beaches of Desaru or in the crystal clear waters of the islands for jetskiing, scuba diving or even fishing. Or walk through a million years of flora and fauna at the Endau-Rompin National Park.

Then while in Johor Bahru city, stroll through the dozen shopping malls for the best bargains in designer fashion. You may also try your best handicap at the many challenging designer golf courses around the city, and in some major towns, by the beach.

Lots of fond memories to bring home to.



The Southern Gateway to Malaysia

JOHOR TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Level 5-4, Johor Tourist Information Centre (JOTIC), No. 2, Jalan Air Molek, 80000 Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Tel : 607-223 4935/224 9960/224 1432 Fax : 607-223 7554 E-mail : tourjoho@tm.net.my www.johortourism.com.my



A Splendour of History, Culture & Nature



Royal Museum
Kuala Kangsar

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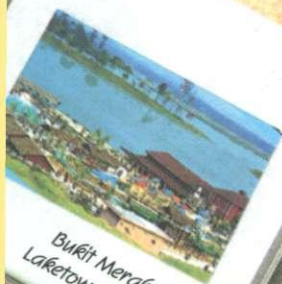
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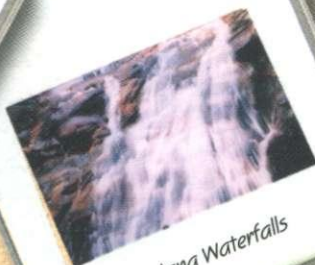
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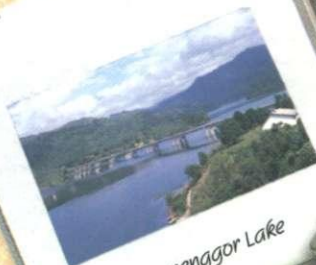
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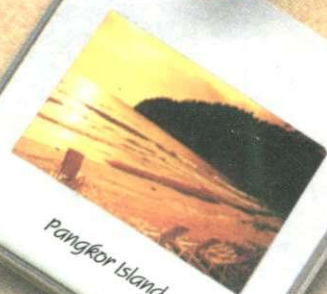
Bukit Merah
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Kinang Waterfalls



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Pangkor Island



For further information, please contact:

STATE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT (UPEN)

Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab, 30000 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia

Tel: 05-2532800, 5225415 Fax: 05-2418173

